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MID KENT EDITION

Issue no 558



The big decision

As the change to school-leaving age approaches, schools and colleges battle for students, who must make a choice that will shape their lives

For full story see inside

CELEBRITY

Stars flock to country hotel

A COUNTRY hotel in Kent might be the last place you would expect to find a host of celebrities.

But its guest book reads like a who's who of the showbiz world, with names including Take That, Backstreet Boys, Robbie Fowler and Alexander O'Neal.

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PREHISTORIC

Dinosaurs on our coastline?

FOSSILS believed to show a dinosaur footprint have been discovered on the Kent coast.

The find, believed to be from the Cretaceous period, is the first of its kind in the county.

The geologist behind the discovery says the print is possibly from a bird-like dinosaur.

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CRICKET

Kent ask fans to be patient

KENT have urged fans to stick with them after their poor start in the County Championship.

They are at the wrong end of Division Two after their first six games.

However, wicketkeeper Geraint Jones feels they can bounce back and has asked fans to be patient.

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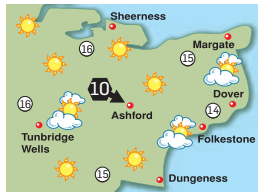
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Weather



TODAY: A dry day, but with some cloud and sunny spells. Gentle winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)
 Dover 06.43 5.7 19.03 5.9
 Margate 07.47 4.3 20.01 4.3
 St Mary's - - 12.35 4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 18C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Thursday	Max 20C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 20C	Min 10C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 10C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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FINANCE

Barnes launches online petition to fight more Government cuts to police budget

By Marijke Cox

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KENT'S Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has launched a petition calling for the public to join her in fighting any additional spending cuts by central government.

Mrs Barnes, who was elected to the high-profile position in November, says any more cuts to the policing budget would threaten the safety of Kent.

It comes ahead of a possible announcement by the Government this month outlining potential further reductions over the next few years.

Forces across the country are bracing themselves for the bad news.

Kent Police's purse is already taking a huge hit, with a 20 per cent reduction over four years up to 2014/15, amounting to some £53 million.

In July 2010, the force said it would have to reduce its headcount by some 500 officer jobs and 1,000 civilian posts over the four years, many by natural wastage.

It has always insisted, however, that



HAVE YOUR SAY: PCC Ann Barnes wants the public to sign her petition

the front line would remain protected. Mrs Barnes has raised concerns about the huge budget cuts and warned of the

impact it could have on community policing in the county. She is calling on members of the public in Kent to sign

a petition to save community policing. "Budgets have already been slashed by central government," she said.

"The Government announced a 20 per cent reduction in the grant to Kent Police covering the four-year period 2010/11 through to 2014/15.

"The Government is possibly to make an announcement in June this year about further potential reductions in the future years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

"I am committed to fighting any such cuts. Any more will be false economy and threaten the safety of Kent.

"I am urging every person and every organisation that values our way of life in Kent to help me in my fight by signing my petition and asking as many friends and family as possible to sign up, too."

Mrs Barnes, who is single-handedly in charge of a policing budget of £310 million, with £1.5m to run her office, is asking people to sign her petition at www.annbarnes.co.uk/fight_cuts.html.

We contacted Kent Police, but the force declined to comment.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

ALSO

Business Quarter June 9

A round-up of the biggest business stories, profiles and analysis of the markets.



Motability June 16

We look at some of the fantastic offers and deals available through approved dealers.

Homes & Gardens June 23

Make the most of your property, both inside and out with our special look at the best in gardens and interiors.



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LEISURE



RICH AND FAMOUS: Roy Loveland (middle, centre picture) shows off the Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club's autograph book boasting a host of star names

Star-studded guest list is par for the course at secluded country retreat

By Joe Bill

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TRENDY Whitstable or celebrated Leeds Castle might be the obvious celebrity hot-spots in the county – but it's actually a hotel near Maidstone that has become the go-to place for the rich and famous visiting Kent.

The Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club has housed some of the biggest names in show business and sport during its 25 years.

Roy Loveland, concierge for quarter of a century, has seen the likes of Take That and Backstreet Boys sign his celebrity guestbook, which reads like a who's who of popular culture.

He told KoS: "I started the book about nine years ago. When you look back, we had lots of people from the Maidstone TV studios coming to stay. And when there are concerts around the area, in Leeds Castle and Margate, we get people stopping off."

The popularity of Tudor Park has seemingly spread throughout celebrity circles, with Rachel Stevens, Girls Aloud, Duncan James from Blue, artist Neil Buchanan and singer Alexander O'Neal all staying at the venue.

"It's a low-key place. Because it's a golf course as well, I think people don't expect celebs to stay here," said Mr Loveland.

"They come to the hotel to relax and not be bothered and that is what happens. They don't get any of that hassle where people are lining up outside."

As everyone knows, celebrities fall into two categories: those who are down to earth and those who like to play the diva.

Mr Loveland, 50, said: "Alexander O'Neal was one of the nicest I've met. As were [boy band] McFly – they came out and chatted to the staff."

"It's a credit to the hotel that the stars know they can come here and relax."

"The only people who were a bit of a struggle were the Backstreet Boys. When they came, it was unbelievable. The amount of luggage they had – and they were only here for one day."

"They wanted a light here and a lamp there and for us to make sure they were comfortable."

"If guests request something, we will generally do it. But most just go straight to their rooms."

The father-of-two from Bearsted also has to calm some of the younger staff-members down to make sure they do a professional job.

"They can get a bit excited. If the guests ask for room service, the youngsters will say 'Oh, I'll take it, I'll take it'. But they still have to act professionally. You can't panic. You have to relax and get used to it."

Snooker stars Jimmy White and Dennis Taylor and footballer Robbie Fowler have visited Tudor Park, as have the West Ham and Leeds United squads, who stopped at the venue for a round of golf and a snooze before playing a match at Gillingham.

And sometimes other guests recognise their celebrity neighbours... or come close to it.

Mr Loveland said: "Shane and Nicky from Westlife had lunch in the restaurant. A couple of the other guests went over and told them that they looked like the boys from Westlife. They said 'Yeah, we get that all the time!'."

"Take That, they were here a long time ago, the first time round. They had a big bedroom,

but it was blocked off and not easy for anyone to get to.

"They are interesting people, but they come here to be left alone and that is what they get."

Some of the other names signed in the book include comedians Frank Skinner and Paddy McGuinness and X Factor contestant Chico.

"We had Chico come down and when he arrived it was like a prom," said Mr Loveland.

"He was not quiet – he wanted everyone to know he was there. He was going around chatting and giving autographs and telling everyone it was Chico-time."

TRANSPORT

Plan to cut road misery

AN INITIATIVE aimed at easing congestion on Kent's busiest roads is up and running.

Under the new lane rental scheme, launched by the county council, utility firms will be charged up to £2,000 per day for the inconvenience caused by digging up the busiest roads on the network at peak time.

It aims to encourage them to work on highways at night and at other off-peak times.

The scheme covers some 465 roads in areas most susceptible to roadwork disruption.

OPERATION

Metal theft targeted

OFFICERS from British Transport Police have carried out a series of operations with Kent Police to tackle the problem of metal and cable theft.

Some 50 vehicles were stopped at the roadside to ensure those carrying large loads in the direction of the Port of Dover were not involved in illegal trading.

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DELAY

Pensioner's shock as mail from half a mile away arrives 18 months late

FROM Christmas cards in June to letters over a year late, Herne Bay pensioner Carl Lardner has faced more postal gripes than many.

However, it was the latest incredible incident that left him with his head in his hands, when a letter posted from less than a mile away arrived a staggering 18 months late.

Posted on October 21, 2011, from William Street in Herne Bay to his home on Beacon Hill, it finally arrived a year and a half later. Luckily, said Mr Lardner, it was documents relating to an insurance quote and nothing more important.

"It has happened a few times. Just the other day, I received a letter from Taunton in Somerset

that was dated September last year," he said.

"Last year, I received Christmas cards in June. It's getting a bit bewildering, to be honest. I can understand why people call it snail mail – when Royal Mail goes wrong, it goes wrong in style."

"We have accepted that first-class doesn't arrive the next day any more. It was lucky my documents were not important and I can laugh at it, but they could have been far more serious."

Royal Mail spokeswoman Sally Hopkins could not explain Mr Lardner's postal problems but did say: "We are sorry and puzzled to learn of Mr Lardner's experience as all mail for delivery to our customers in Herne Bay is delivered daily."

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News

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SEARCH

Image of missing man last seen on Channel ferry released by family

By **Marijke Cox**

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A PICTURE of a Whitstable man feared dead after going missing from a Channel ferry has been released by his family.

Richard Fearnside was last seen on the P&O Pride of Kent ship, which was crossing from Calais to Dover.

The alarm was raised while passengers and vehicles were disembarking from the ferry after it docked in Dover on Tuesday, May 21, in the early hours.

It is understood that the 30-year-old had gone to have a cigarette on the outer deck but never returned.

A huge search was launched by the Coast-

guard and the RNLI, with assistance from an RAF helicopter and a Royal Navy warship that was in the area at the time, but they failed to find Mr Fearnside.

The ferry was also searched during the operation.

Mr Fearnside is described as white, of slim build, 5ft 8in, with short, cropped, mousey-coloured hair.

When he went missing he had been wearing a black hooded top, blue T-shirt, blue jeans and black-and-white trainers.

Police say they are not speaking to anyone else in relation to the disappearance. Anyone with information is asked to contact Acting Detective Sergeant Richard Lown on 101 quoting ref number 21-48.



HISTORY

Plane still in deep water

HOPES of raising a Second World War plane from waters off the Deal coast have suffered a setback, with bad weather scuppering plans.

The German Dornier 17 bomber is lying in 50ft of water on the Goodwin Sands, but it will have to wait a little longer to be retrieved.

Original plans included the building of an aluminium frame around the wreck in which to lift it, putting the least possible strain on the fragile aircraft.

AUCTION

Lord Nelson's will sold

A BARGAIN-hunter from Cranbrook has bought a will written by Lord Horatio Nelson.

Raj Bisram, who runs Bentley's Fine Art and Antiques Auction House, bid £13,500 for the antique document during Channel 4 auctioning show Four Rooms.

The will was written by the famous naval commander in 1798 before the Battle of the Nile, when he successfully destroyed Napoleon's fleet – a battle that he survived.

EDUCATION

Meeting the demands doesn't mean you have

From hands-on learning to the more traditional

By **Chris Murphy and Marijke Cox**

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COLLEGES and schools are going head-to-head in a fight to attract students ahead of a major shake-up that will see pupils made to stay in education or training until they are 18.

The battle lines have certainly been drawn, with Kent's colleges tempting students with glossy advertising telling youngsters that they do not need to stay at school to continue learning.

Schools, meanwhile, are introducing job-focused vocational courses to their curricula to run alongside academic subjects in a bid to persuade pupils to stay on at sixth form.

In addition to teens being enticed by both schools and colleges, organisations such as Kent County Council are also wading in, pushing tempting offers of apprenticeships with pay of £105 a week.

It comes ahead of changes by the Department for Education in September, when teenagers will have to stay in education or training until they are 18.

While this could all be seen as good news for Kent's youngsters, it means fierce competition between the county's educational establishments, which rely on attracting more pupils to gain access to additional funds for resources.

Schools and colleges are chasing an ever-diminishing pot of money, with Government spending cuts hitting hard, creating a widening gap between the cash they get for secondary students not yet in sixth form and the sixth-formers.

DfE figures show that in 2011-12 average funding for each secondary pupil was £5,620, compared with £4,645 for each sixth-former. Colleges get their funding allocation depending on intake.

For Isle of Sheppey Academy principal David Day, however, it's all about what's important for the students. He said the new rules under the coalition government would mean an educated workforce in the future.

"Brutally, young people who have no qualifications may end up in a lifetime of benefits and welfare," he said.

His own school has implemented three different 'education pathways': the traditional academic route where students complete A-levels and BTech courses; the 'exclusive academic-examined' pathway where pupils study subjects such as English, maths, law and traditional courses with a view to going to a Russell Group university (which includes the likes of Oxford and Cambridge); and occupational and vocational courses.

The latter includes hair and beauty, construction, engineering and motor-vehicle maintenance.



CHOICE: While students can opt to remain in the traditional classroom, establishments such as MidKent College, right, are encouraging young people to consider vocational courses as well

nance, as well as a football academy that also looks to potentially open doors to jobs in sports physiotherapy and managerial positions in the leisure industry.

"Schools have moved in this direction already where they can satisfy two needs – academic and occupational," said Mr Day.

"There will naturally be competition between schools and colleges, but this is probably a good thing. Students can shop around to find the best combination of courses to suit them."

However, he did say that schools could offer pupils things that colleges could not.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO EDUCATION?

The Department for Education says: "In England, if you're currently in year 11 you must stay in some form of education or training until the end of the academic year when you turn 17.

"If you're currently in year 10, then you have to stay in

some form of education or training until the end of the academic year when you turn 18.

"This doesn't have to mean staying in school. It can be full-time education, for example at a school or college; an apprenticeship;

and full-time employment (over 20 hours a week) combined with part-time education or training."

Funding will be in place to ensure that schools and colleges can offer places in education or training to all young people who want them.



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of an extra two years to stay in a classroom

lessons, young people are now spoilt for choice



"We know the students. We know their strengths and weaknesses. Schools are more rounded in pastoral support and have historical knowledge of each child," he said.

"Schools are very driven in trying to get the best outcomes for students."

Sue McLeod, deputy principal of MidKent College in Gillingham, said that school wasn't for everyone.

"It is important young people understand that the raising of the participation age does not mean they have to stay at school – they can also switch to college," she said.

"This is one of the key messages we are aiming to get across in our student-recruitment campaigns because school is not for everybody and we believe college provides a great alternative.

"Many of our courses are vocational or occupational and our links with local industries mean our students are more employable when they leave us than they would be if they stayed on at school."

East Kent College, which is based in Thanet, echoed that staying in school was not vital as colleges offered full-time courses, apprenticeships and part-time training.

A spokesman said: "There are many reasons for choosing the mature environment of a college, where students are treated as adults, not children. At college you will learn essential job skills in state-of-the-art facilities, such as our new Centre for Environmental Technologies, hair and beauty salons and our exclusive motion capture suite."

CRIME

Police hunt trio after stolen bus is smashed into cars and lamppost

By Joe Bill

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TRANSPORT police are hunting three people who stole a bus from a train station before taking it on a destructive ride around a Kent neighbourhood.

Thieves struck in the early hours of last Saturday, getting into the yellow-and-blue Travelmaster bus in Ramsgate and smashing it into four parked cars, a lamppost and a wall.

Det Con Steve Best, from British Transport Police, has released CCTV images of two men taken from onboard cameras and the surrounding area.

He said: "The yellow-and-blue Travelmaster bus, which was parked and secured on the forecourt of the station, was due to be used later in the morning as a rail-replacement service. Around 3am, two men and a woman entered the bus and drove it from the station.

"It is sheer luck that no one was hurt during this foolish incident. Those whose property



CCTV: Do you know this man?

was destroyed as a result have been left understandably upset by what took place and we will do all we can in our power to catch those responsible.

"CCTV from the bus and the surrounding area has also been viewed and we are now in a position to release still images of two men we believe may have information.

"Did you see the incident happen? Do you recognise the men pictured?"

Anyone with information is asked to phone 0800 40 50 40, quoting B12/LSA, or Crime-stoppers on 0800 555 111.

CHARITY

Volunteers in the spotlight

HOMELESSNESS charity Porchlight is celebrating its volunteer workforce as part of Volunteers' Week (June 1-7).

In the past year, more than 50 people have given up their spare time to help support the county's homeless through the charity.

Their work has included helping run educational workshops and becoming 'buddies' to isolated people.

COUNCIL

KCC accounts made public

KENT County Council has released its accounts and related documents for the public to inspect.

They will be available at Sessions House in County Hall, Maidstone, between 10am and 4pm, from June 17 to July 12.

Questions or objections can be sent to Darren Wells, Grant Thornton UK LLP, The Explorer Building, Fleming Way, Manor Road, Gatwick RH10 9GT.

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REGENERATION

Legal action considered by council in bid to force developer to make progress on seafront eyesore

By Chris Murphy

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A BATTLE over a historic seaside entertainment site has reached new heights, with town hall chiefs looking to draft in legal advisers to force the company behind its planned redevelopment into action.

Thanet District Council's cabinet said that one option to end the problems, which it is claimed centre on funding for the development of the former Pleasurama site in Ramsgate, was to explore ending the contractual agreement, although this was likely to be more of a warning.

However, a spokesman for developer SFP Ventures (UK) Ltd insisted to KoS that everything was "still on track" and money was in place.

Thanet council, however, revealed to us that it was still seeking proper legal assurances to ensure the lenders who have made the money available are aware what it is going to be used for.

At a meeting of the council this week, the cabinet agreed to follow recommendations made by the scrutiny committee that a working group be set up to examine the situation.



SITE FOR SORE EYES... OR NOT: People in Ramsgate have grown tired of the derelict seafront site and made feelings known

Green Party member Ian Driver said this group would look at options for the Royal Sands site, which has been derelict for more than a decade.

"One option, cabinet said, is to take top legal advice to explore the possibility of ending the contractual arrangement with SFP," said Cllr Driver.

"It appears the council now has little confidence in the developer and feels it is unlikely that it will see the project through. This is the beginning of the end."

Cllr Driver praised the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront for gathering a 1,000-name petition calling for SFP to be dumped because it had "lost pub-

lic trust and confidence and this proposal will not achieve the stated aim of regenerating Ramsgate seafront".

He said it was time to start over with a fresh developer who would complete the job quickly, creating a beach park as a tourist attraction rather than facilities locals won't use.

"There are tunnels under the cliffs, which was a wartime command centre once," said Cllr Driver. "This warren could be renovated and turned into a heritage centre."

"Housing and a hotel is a flawed plan. We need to consult the local community to see what they want."

Local estate agent Terry Painter is a



spokesman for SFP. He said the development would go ahead as planned.

"If you have heard there is no funding, it's not true. The funding is in place," he told KoS.

He stressed that SFP had £20 million on tap, "which was sufficient to complete the development".

"The developer has put in £5 million himself and work has already been done which has cost the developer another few million," he said.

The council cabinet member for operational services, Alan Poole, said: "Discussions are still under way with the developer and will continue with the aim of resolving the current situation to develop the site as agreed, but we have to be realistic."

"We've waited a considerable amount of time for the developer to meet its obligations and, whilst we acknowledge the challenging economic climate, there has to be a conclusion."

"The current development has planning permission, leases and an agreement in place, so any alternative proposal would need to be carefully considered to ensure the finances and legal position could make this a viable option."

An entertaining history

- From 1926 the site was used as an amusement and entertainment centre, once called Pleasureland.
- Later in 1965, Pleasureland opened, finally closing in 1997 and burning to the ground a year later.
- SFP Ventures stepped in with plans for a hotel and 107 luxury apartments, shops, cafés and restaurants.
- Foundations were laid, but work stopped as the recession kicked in.
- SFP owns a long-term lease and wants the council to sell it the freehold for £3.3 million so it can use that to raise the rest of the cash.

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News

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HISTORY

Rocks reveal footprints from the day dinosaurs roamed our coastlines

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT'S hard to imagine a velociraptor or giant prehistoric bird roaming along the Kent coastline 100 million years ago, but an extraordinary find points to just that.

Geologist Philip Hadland discovered fossils showing the footprints of what is believed to be a dinosaur at a beach in Folkestone and has spent the last 12 months researching and testing them.

The fossils are made up of three rocks, found close together, featuring the same indent from a two-toed animal that could have been similar to a velociraptor or giant flightless bird.

Mr Hadland, who is also the collections officer at the Beany art museum in Canterbury, said the indents were made by a vertebrate animal.



FIND: The dinosaur-print rocks

"I never expected to find evidence of dinosaurs living in Folkestone, but these footprints reveal that they wandered an ancient shoreline here during the Cretaceous period," he said.

"We think it was potentially a giant bird-like dinosaur. Fossils of such animals from the Cretaceous period have been found in Kazakhstan and France, but this is the first of this type recorded in Kent."

The discovery was made on an exposed area of Lower Greensand on the foreshore at Folkestone.

"We don't know the exact identity of the animal, but I hope we may find bones one day to help identify it," said Mr Hadland.

These types of imprints usually have three toes instead of two, so they have been sent to The Natural History Museum for help with identification.

Mr Hadland will present the finds during a talk at Turner Contemporary in Margate, where they will be displayed for a number of weeks from this weekend before returning to be exhibited in Folkestone.

This is not the first time dinosaur remains have been found in the county, with the iguanodon becoming synonymous with Kent after the discovery of bones in Bensted's Quarry near Maidstone in 1834.

It was the first substantially complete dinosaur skeleton found anywhere in the world.

CRIME

Brothers locked up for vicious assault on pair

TWO brothers who assaulted two friends on a night out, beating one of them over the head with a chair, have been jailed for 16 months.

Louis Lawrence, 18, of Henwood Green Road, Tunbridge Wells, and Marcus Lawrence, 22, of the same address, attacked two men who had been drinking in Brenchley Memorial Hall in Tonbridge in May last year. One victim suffered a suspected fractured cheekbone.

GOVERNMENT

Deputy PM in county to promote free childcare

DEPUTY Prime Minister Nick Clegg visited a nursery in Gravesend on Thursday to promote the Government's free-childcare policy.

From September, 15 hours of free childcare a week will be made available to thousands of two-year-olds from lower-income backgrounds.

Mr Clegg visited the Bright Beginnings nursery and met parents, staff and children. He talked about the impact of quality childcare.

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News

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EDUCATION

Super-selective school proposes its own test in bid to counter coaching

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A TOP-performing grammar school has become the latest to plan a move to its own 11-plus-style selection exam.

The Judd School in Tonbridge is among many to have become disillusioned with the current county test, prompting moves by Kent County Council to make the exam less coachable.

The chairman of governors at the school, Hubert Ashton, said the new Kent Test planned by KCC would be an improvement but would not address two of Judd's "key concerns".

"[These are] differentiating effectively at the top end and giving sufficient weighting to written English skills," said Mr Ashton.

"We are therefore considering running our own Year 7 entrance test with effect from September 2014 for the 2015 intake.

"It will be balanced with a creative-writing element, comprehension and mathematics.

"We shall set and mark the test ourselves."

Moves began this year by KCC to change the current Kent Test system to stop the widespread tutoring culture seen in the county.

Education chiefs are looking at an assessment based more on what pupils learn in the classroom for their SATS.

They hope that by streamlining the test – which currently involves numeracy, literacy



ASSESSMENT: The test is taken in Year 6

and verbal and non-verbal reasoning – in such a way, it would become less coachable.

A survey was carried out by head-teachers last year, stating the test needed to be as "un-coachable" as possible, include a stronger literacy element and be flexible in its application so results could be used in different ways.

The contract with the company that provides assessment materials and services for the 11-plus in Kent is due to expire and a tender is out inviting firms to bid for the new contract, which would begin in September 2015.

Commenting on Judd's plans to create its own test, KCC's cabinet member for education, Roger Gough, said: "Although individual schools are

free to set their own entry tests, we would have concerns about them doing so as it would add to the pressure children are put under by having to take more than one test.

"We would be very happy to work with The Judd School on their proposal to consult on a new entry test for the school."

Dover grammar schools hold their own tests and The Folkestone School for Girls and Harvey Grammar School for Boys in Folkestone are going down the same route.

However, the reasons are different from Judd's. In both Dover and Folkestone, the grammars have vacant places and the additional Dover and Shepway tests are aimed at filling them.

In a letter to parents, The Folkestone School for Girls principal Tracy Luke said: "If you believe your daughter would benefit from a grammar-school education, it is possible to seek a place here both through our own procedure – the Shepway Test – and through the Kent Test.

"The reason we are making this change and introducing a second test is to ensure the maximum opportunity for girls in Shepway to demonstrate they are of selective ability.

"The second test should also mean fewer parental appeals are necessary later in the year."

Chatham grammar schools had last year brought in plans to introduce their own tests this March, but the tests did not fulfil the requirements under the School Admissions Code.

WHAT IS IT?

The Kent Test, or 11-plus, is the method used to select students believed to be suitable for a grammar-school place.

The exam is sat by Year 6 students in September, almost exactly a year before they start at secondary school.

The paper itself comprises a 50-minute verbal-reasoning paper, 40-minute non-verbal paper and one-hour maths and one-hour writing exercises.

Parents who would like their children to sit September's test will be able to register for them to take part from June 3 to July 1.

The test is available for any child starting Year 6 in September 2013 who wishes to apply to go to a Kent grammar school in September 2014.

Roger Gough, cabinet member for education at KCC, said: "Anyone can register to take the test and we encourage all parents to consider whether they should put their children forward to sit it.

"Most Kent children take the tests in their own school to help make them feel more at ease. If their school doesn't administer the tests we arrange for them to take them at an alternative test centre in the county.

"Parents are encouraged to seek advice from their child's primary school as to whether a grammar school might be the right next step for their child, but ultimately it is a parent's decision."

To complete a form online, visit www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Alternatively, a paper copy can be downloaded from the website, picked up from primary schools, or sent in the post, by phoning 0300 333 6472.

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AVIATION

Airport legal challenges may not be heard in High Court, claims MP

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LEGAL challenges against expansion of a Kent airport may not even make it to the High Court unless campaigners can prove there were flaws in the planning process, says a Kent MP.

The comments by Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins follow two legal challenges – one by Lydd Airport Action Group (LAAG) and the other by the RSPB – against the Government's decision to allow Lydd airport to expand.

Lydd Holdings Ltd plans to invest £25 million developing the Romney Marsh airport, including a 300-metre runway extension, plus 150m starter extension and a new terminal building able to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year.

The proposals were given the go-ahead by Shepway District Council in 2010, but the Government halted the process and stepped in, holding a planning inquiry last year that led to last month's decision to allow the plans to go forward.

But this week the RSPB and LAAG launched separate legal challenges.

Chris Corrigan, RSPB South East regional director, said: "Dungeness is one of the most important wildlife sites in the world – it is protected at global, European and UK levels.

It is home to species found hardly anywhere

else in the UK. It is also a crossroads for migrating birds stopping off on their epic global journeys.

"We are profoundly concerned about this [planning] decision as it seems perverse.

"We have issued a legal challenge to the Secretary of State's decision.

"The stakes are too high to risk the future of one of our most important places for nature without testing the basis for this decision, which we consider to be flawed."

However, Mr Collins, who supports the airport's plans, said that unless the challenge was based on a problem in the planning-inquiry process, it was unlikely to succeed.

"At this stage, the challenge has to be against the planning process – it can't just be going over old arguments.

"The airport has got planning permission, so plans can get under way. It doesn't have to wait because of these challenges. The challenges may get no further.

"I still support the plans. It will bring in jobs and investment. It will help keep bright and ambitious young people in the area.

"Great consideration has been taken to make sure impacts are overcome, including no night flights and noise insulation at Greatstone primary school.

"It was made clear that the overall level of tranquillity [in the area] will be the same level as a national park."



ROW: Campaigners are fighting against expansion

DEATH

Pensioner dies in crash

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a man in his 70s was killed in a crash in Gillingham.

The incident happened in Beechings Way on Thursday at about 4pm when a silver Ford Fiesta left the road for unknown reasons and hit a road-sign near Wingham Close.

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ENTERTAINMENT

From Medway to Margate, post-apocalyptic film draws the crowds' attention to seaside resort

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE county's scenery will once again be the backdrop to a feature-length movie as the team behind new British production *The Fitzroy* looks to complete filming on our shores.

Set in 1950s post-apocalyptic Margate, the film is set aboard a beached submarine off the Thanet coast. And in keeping with the Kentish theme, up-and-coming director Andrew Harmer has chosen the Black Widow submarine, moored on the River Medway near Rochester, to shoot interior scenes for the picture.

He said: "It's a post-apocalyptic comedy set in an alternative Margate, so it's a little different from your average British independent film. In this world a nuclear bomb went off four years earlier and we pick up the story as the remains of society are trying to live on in a kind of traditional way – keeping the British end up and all that."

"It follows all these crazy characters who are cooped up in this submarine, which doubles as a hotel. It's all about power – there is a murder-mystery thrown in and a question over who will get ownership of the hotel as well."

It stars a number of well-known faces including Cerith Flynn (Strike Back, Hotel Babylon), David Chall (The Inbetweeners, The Office), Jan Anderson (Curb Your Enthusiasm, Human Traffic) and Kenneth Colard (The Tudors, Fresh Meat).

Mr Harmer, who was born in Tunbridge Wells before moving to the Isle of Man with his family when he was a child, explained the funding behind the independent film.

He said: "It was through a programme called Kickstart, which is a crowd-funding website."

"You go online and pitch an idea – anything from a film to an album or even an invention."

"You offer incentives for people to put their money in – so for a film you can offer a poster or DVD or a visit to the set. Because the film titles will be animated we were offering to turn you into a cartoon character and put you in there."

This is the first complete film that Mr Harmer will have written and directed, having worked on music videos and advertising promotions.

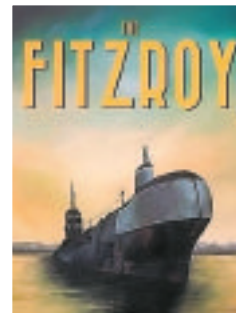
The *Fitzroy* looks to play on people's nostalgia, being set in the 1950s when holidaymakers would consider Margate as a top destination.

"I guess I'm used to the Victorian seaside towns that were once quite popular but have ebbed away as package holidays came in. In some ways the film picks up where those holidays were popular in the 50s, and people associate that with Margate very quickly, I think."

Mr Harmer has no doubt about where the film's influences have come from.

"The film flows back towards some of the sitcoms of the past. The things I grew up with, like *Dad's Army* and *Fawlty Towers*, where you have all these crazy characters, and the actors hopefully see something in the characters they play."

The *Fitzroy* is due to be finished in October.





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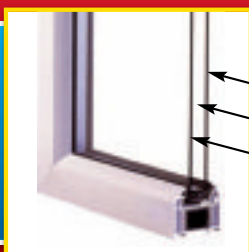
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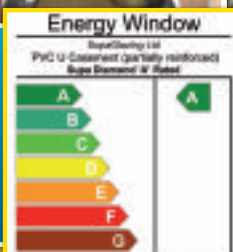
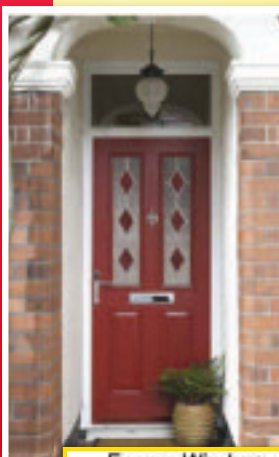
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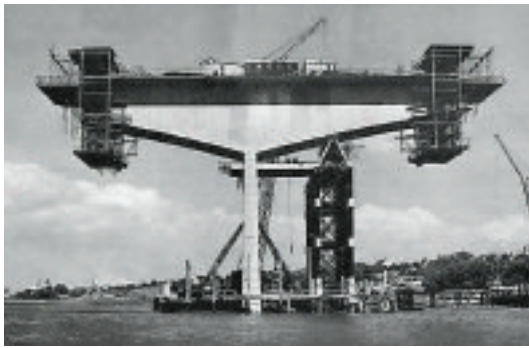
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HISTORY



Remembering the many twists and turns that have made M2's history

Chris Murphy toasts landmark anniversary of motorway that has been main route to London for 50 years

FIFTY years ago this week, the M2 was officially opened, diverting thousands of vehicles out of town centres in north Kent and becoming one of the main links between the county and London.

While most of us now take the motorway network for granted, in 1963 it was a momentous occasion when the ribbon was finally cut.

And for people in Medway, Sittingbourne and Faversham it came as a welcome relief after years of traffic misery in their towns.

But it was perhaps the Farthing Corner services that was the central attraction, where mo-

torway eating was seen as something special all those years ago, and waitresses glided between tables with plates of food from specially-designed menus for hungry drivers

At under 26 miles, the M2 is far from being England's longest motorway, stretching from Strood to just beyond Faversham.

It was designed to take traffic away from the narrow A2, yet now, ironically, stretches of the A2 are actually wider and have more lanes than parts of the motorway.

Almost immediately after construction it was

realised that the long haul from the M2 bridge near Strood up to the Chatham turn-off was a bottleneck, especially when a pair of lorries jostled for position side by side up the long steep hill, keeping traffic behind them.

A multi-vehicle crash in the 1980s during foggy weather led to the stretch being branded the most dangerous length of motorway in Europe at that time.

It wasn't until 2000 that an extensive widening programme started, resulting in what we see today.

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ROAD WELL TRAVELLED: A highlight of the new M2 was the services at Farthing Corner (opposite page, centre and right) that saw drivers able to stop off and grab a bite to eat on the £14m motorway

The Medway bypass was constructed in 1963, between the bridge at junction two and Stockbury near junction five. It was opened by then transport minister Ernest Marples.

The bridge cost £2 million – and tragically the lives of five workmen – with the rest of the project coming in at some £12m.

Junctions one to two and five to seven were opened two years later.

Originally, the M2 was planned to stretch down to Dover, but low traffic volumes meant that this idea was shelved, leading to the Gov-

ernment eventually choosing to widen the A2. The motorway was due to have been called the A2(M), but after The Daily Telegraph labelled it M2 the name stuck.

It was even mooted early on that it could form part of a London orbital road, now better known as the M25.

It was no easy road to build. A Ministry of Transport planning document from the time speaks of the need for viaducts to cross deep valleys, and steep hills to overcome.

It says: "Owing to the hilly nature of the county,



the road will rise to a height of about 600ft above sea level between Bredhurst and the A249.

"There are several deep valleys which necessitate the use of viaducts, the longest of which is at Stockbury Valley; this viaduct is more than 850ft-long and carries the road 70ft above ground level at the highest point."

In all, 63 bridges were planned, and workmen had to battle with a mix of chalk, clay, flint and Thanet Sands.

Because of 'chalk heave' the foundation was made from reinforced concrete up to 11 inches thick with several inches of asphalt on top.

Fifty roads were diverted during construction. That construction continues today.

Currently, the Highways Agency has four sets of works going on, from barrier repairs to pot-holes being fixed around expansion joints at that Stockbury viaduct.

And, as the Highways Agency points out, "the M2 is the only M road in England that does not meet any other motorway at a junction".

BIKER GOT EARLY VIEW

FORMER draughtsman Ted Smith, 72, was a fan of the motorway and took pictures as it was being built.

He told KoS: "I remember the building of the M2 well. The first clues came when my family lived in Boxley Road, Walderslade. My brother and I had gone into the woods collecting firewood when we came upon a large clearing of felled trees – the beginning of the construction.

"I worked in the top floor of the Winget offices in Strood and had a grandstand view of the bridge being built across the river.

"Being a young motorcyclist, I was obviously curious to try out the new motorway. They did not work on Sundays, so I found a way on it at the top of Bluebell Hill and rode down one of the carriageways dodging various pieces of rubble until I managed to exit at Borstal."

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ANIMAL WELFARE

Campaigners against live animal exports will use poignant symbol to line main route to port

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PURPLE ribbons will be tied to trees along the route to the Port of Dover this weekend as a symbol against animal cruelty – a decade since they were first used in the fight against live exports.

It follows the relocation of live animal export ferry MV Joline, run by Dutch firm Barco de Vapo, from Ramsgate to Dover.

MV Joline had been operating from the Thanet port, but its owner argued that moving to Dover would mean a shorter travelling time for the animals and would enable better policing than at Ramsgate.

Dover Harbour Board is legally obliged to allow live exports to run from the docks, despite fierce opposition from the RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming and Dover MP Charlie Elphicke.

In a day of action this weekend, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Dover, Clair Hawkins, is adding her voice to the fight and bringing with it a symbol against animal cruelty in the form of purple ribbons, which will be tied to trees along Jubilee Way – one of the main routes to the port.

Ribbons were first strung up in the town by residents 10 years ago as a sign of their opposition to live exports.

The ribbons protest was launched in 1995, following the death of Jill Phipps, aged 31, who was crushed to death by an export truck carrying veal calves at Coventry airport.

After her death, the purple ribbon was worn as a symbol of what she had died fighting for.

Ms Hawkins is calling on residents to tie the ribbons around their own trees at home and sign the online petition against live exports.

"Tying purple ribbons will send out a strong message in a symbolic and visible way that the people of Dover and Deal do not want this cruel and unnecessary trade in their town and through their port," she said.

"A return to live animal exports travelling through the Port of Dover is a really backward step, but this time we must make sure our campaign sees the trade stopped for good."

Live exports resumed from the Port of Dover on Thursday, May 2, when the MV Joline sailed to France loaded with lorries carrying sheep.

The vessel can carry seven trucks and is initially making one shipment a week from Dover to Calais.

RSPCA chiefs said that the charity's inspectors were barred from entering the port to safeguard the welfare of the animals.

■ Sign the petition at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/42002>.



SENDING A MESSAGE: Dover people have been asked to tie purple ribbons on trees along town's Jubilee Way

Advertisement Feature

Change Lives... Find out about fostering.



Fostering is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster carers means that more committed foster carers are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster carer think that the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward – who were foster carers themselves – and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step Fostering has gained an outstanding reputation for providing high quality child care. In the last three consecutive OFSTED inspections, Next

Step achieved an 'Outstanding' rating across every standard in which they were assessed – probably the only IFA to achieve this.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent, London and The Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.

A national shortage of foster carers means that children who cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely

rewarding – and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.

Stephanie Jackson, Manager of the Chatham office, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly.

We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, Next Step Fostering hold regular 'drop-in' information sessions at its Chatham office, which is at 85 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EE.

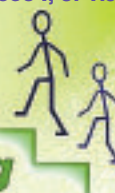
The next 'drop-in' will be held on

13th June, between 11am – 4pm .

Alternatively, call the Chatham office on either 01634 838666 or 0845 6038354, or visit their web site at www.nextstepfostering.org

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SOCIETY

Muslim community reports little backlash in wake of soldier killing

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S Muslim community says it has faced little trouble in the wake of the killing of off-duty soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich despite concerns that political groups were raising tensions.

Fears of a backlash arose after a spate of alleged incidents in Medway.

A man from Rochester has been charged with racially-aggravated criminal damage on a mosque in Gillingham, while two others have been charged after separate alleged hate-related crimes involving an assault and public-order offences, also in Medway.

Police said they were also continuing to investigate an incident outside Folkestone Mosque in which a small rock was thrown at the front door of the building while worshippers were inside on Thursday, May 23. No damage was caused.

It was later reported to police just after the incident that four young girls had walked past and made racist comments.

However, although the Muslim community is nervous after a wave of anti-Muslim protests by far-right parties, there has so far been little trouble in the county.

Raschid Sohawon, from the Canterbury Muslim Cultural Centre, told KoS: "We have been here 20 years and never had any trouble.

"We work hard to work with our community

Race-hate criminal charges

- Andrew John Grindlay, 45, from Rochester, appeared before Medway magistrates and was bailed after a religious building was damaged in Canterbury Street, Gillingham. He is charged with religiously-aggravated criminal damage and burglary.
- A 27-year-old Gillingham man has been charged with a public-order offence and threats to commit criminal damage. The man was arrested on Thursday, May 23, after officers in Medway responded to a report of an assault in the high street.
- An 85-year-old woman from Chatham has been charged with a public-order offence in Canterbury Street, Gillingham.

and integrate fully and that has paid dividends."

A member of staff at the Sittingbourne Islamic Cultural Centre in Sittingbourne who asked to be anonymous said members had seen no trouble. "We are hoping it stays that way," he added.

The Kent Islamic Centre Mosque in Chatham also said it had not seen problems.

Kent Police are taking a zero-tolerance approach to any incidents of religiously- or racially-aggravated attacks, or hate crime, in the wake of the Woolwich murder.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "We have made it clear what our approach

will be to any reports of crime or disorder following the murder in Woolwich. Kent Police has not received intelligence to suggest any threat to anyone living in the county, but resources will continue to patrol to provide a presence in potentially-vulnerable communities."



HIT: Gillingham mosque was damaged in attack

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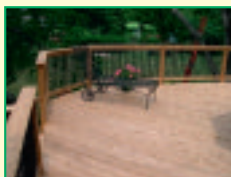
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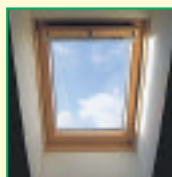
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HIGHWAYS

Rising maintenance costs could be end of the road for red-brick paving

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RED-BRICK paving that has lined the routes of some of our most historic walkways is under threat due to rising maintenance costs.

Town hall chiefs across Kent are looking at replacing the paving, despite its aesthetic appeal, with black tarmac, which is much cheaper to lay and maintain. Some residents have complained about tripping over the bricks, adding more weight to the argument that it should be replaced.

Tunbridge Wells's famous brick paving, which has lined some streets for more than a century, is one of the potential targets in the overhaul, with a particular focus on Culverden Park.

The area's district highway manager for Kent County Council, Earl Bournier, said that a survey was under way.

"In order to address important issues around maintaining Tunbridge Wells's famous paving, the joint transportation board set up a special working group," he said.

"This group is carrying out a detailed survey and developing a maintenance policy for each of the different paving types and locations."

Maintenance work is much cheaper with tarmac: replacing ordinary tarmac costs about £34 per square metre, cheap when compared with the red bricks at about £70.

However, the latter lasts twice as long.

ROMANS SHOWED THE WAY

THE art of block-paving can be traced back to when the Roman Empire was spreading its bloodied wings.

The arrow-straight roads worked more efficiently with a solid surface when it came to moving soldiers and equipment.

Its network was made from interlocking bricks that gave good drainage and were repairable. Done right and they last... botch the foundations and they become wavy.

Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society says it would be unsightly to use tarmac, which would only be a short-term fix and ruin the look of the town.

"Red-brick pavements are much cheaper in the long run. They are as much a part of Tunbridge Wells as The Pantiles. They should be considered as Heritage Assets," a spokesman said.

"If the bricks need to be levelled in the interests of safety, then that is what should be done. These bricks have provided a safe, attractive pavement for decades and could last for many more to come with proper maintenance.

"Soft, ugly asphalt is not the solution. As well as being wholly inappropriate and unattractive to the street scene, it will need much more main-

tenance over the years. Taking such an expedient, short-term approach, presumably because of the initial costs of doing the job properly, is close to vandalism."

Tunbridge Wells is not the only area facing potential brick extinction.

Medway Council plans to renew the road running through Strood.

An authority spokesman said: "The block paving in Strood high street was installed more than 15 years ago, and given the time it has been down it has lasted well. However, blocks are not really suitable for a busy thoroughfare and Medway Council does have plans to resurface the high street, but not in the immediate future."

Other areas such as Tenterden have also used the more costly option in the past – decisions that are now being questioned by some council chiefs.

Mike Pearson is a member of Tenterden Town Council. It saw Bells Lane block-paved about 20 years ago and it has lasted well, although it doesn't see much traffic.

Cllr Pearson said: "It does look attractive. The highways people saw fit to install blocks along this small side street and it has proved to be a bit of an attraction."

He wasn't quite so complimentary, however, of the approach to the local Tesco store, which used pressed concrete on the road to make it appear like individual bricks.



ON WAY OUT? Future of brick paving is uncertain

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TELEVISION

'I do believe I can win the show'... Joseph puts his faith in Sir Tom to guide him to victory on The Voice

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FROM singing in the church choir to performing on stage in front of millions of viewers, Joseph Apostol has captured the nation's heart with his stunning voice.

And not only has the 21-year-old from Gillingham become favourite to win hit BBC talent show The Voice but he's been well and truly taken under the wing of music legend Sir Tom Jones.

The Welsh star chose to take him through to the next stage of the competition following a beautiful rendition of Elton John and George Michael's classic Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me in the knockout rounds.

Despite his impressive talent, the shy singer is only now coming to terms with his progress.

"There are mixed emotions because it was so nerve-racking being up there [on stage] at the time, but watching the show back I know what is about to happen," he said.

Joseph came to the UK with his mother when he was 10 years old and attended the St John Fisher Catholic School in Chatham.

It was in his local church that the performer really found his voice.

"I've been singing since I was about six, but I have always been into music. The first time I started singing in front of people was when I started going to Christian church."

And Joseph's time at MidKent College, where he studies music, has helped to propel him towards stardom.

"My aim is to be heard by everyone and to perform on that stage," he said.

"The college has really helped me to build my confidence when I perform – they have been a great basis to work from when I am performing."

"I do still have nerves, but that helps me perform. It gives me the right adrenalin."

And there to help keep the Medway man on track in The Voice's latter rounds is his coach and team mentor, Sir Tom Jones.

The show's three other coaches – Jessie J, Will.i.am and The Script's Danny O'Donoghue – are also big fans.

"Tom has been an amazing coach. I believe he trusts me as an artist and as a singer and that is the one thing you want and hope for from a coach."

"He has given me so many tips as well. The one that really stuck with me was when he said 'Just be Joseph, just be you'. That means he trusts me. So I am thankful for that."

Joseph is not your typical pop performer, either, citing jazz and soul legends like Etta James, Ray Charles and Ella Fitzgerald as heroes.

And that is the direction he would like to take his music in the future should his stint on The Voice propel him to his desired industry.

He said: "I love classic jazz and soul music. And of course I like R&B, too, and a bit of pop."

"I think the body of my album would have to be jazz, soul and blues but incorporating a bit of pop for that money-making music."

"Ultimately I'd love to work with Adele. She is that kind of soulful, bluesy type of singer I like."

"I do believe I can win the show. I have to believe in myself and show my confidence in terms of my performances. But also the ultimate dream is to get a recording contract, make my own music and tour all over the world."

"That is why I joined the show."

As he has stormed through the show, his popularity with the public has grown, with a number of Medway locals and London fans stopping to talk to the young man.

"I have had people come up to me in the street – that was a bit crazy," he said.

■ You can see Joseph Apostol perform in the knockout rounds this weekend on BBC One.



SINGING SENSATION: Medway singer Joseph Apostol is favourite to win the BBC talent show



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CRIME



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Police charge man, 20, over hammer attack

Joseph Williams, 20, of Athelstan Road, appeared before magistrates in Thursday charged with attempted murder.

DEATH

Appeal for witnesses after fatal bridge crash

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SAFETY

Social-housing charity blamed for high levels of violent crime in trouble-spot

Trust 'has become the residence of choice for people straight out of prison'

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A FORMER candidate in the Police and Crime Commissioner race has accused a social-housing charity of contributing to the high levels of violent crime in an area exposed as one of Kent's trouble-spots.

Craig Mackinlay, who represents the River ward on Medway Council, blamed homelessness charity the Ashdown Medway Accommodation Trust (AMAT), based in Chatham, for attracting problems to the area.

AMAT, which denies the claim, provides accommodation for the homeless and those currently under the watch of the probation service.

In a special report by this newspaper, we revealed statistics showing there had been 1,402 violent crimes committed in the ward, which is in Chatham town centre, between April 2010 and September 2012, placing it at number two in the list of most violent wards in the county.

Cllr Mackinlay told KoS: "AMAT



has become the residence of choice of people straight out of prison. They are like the last option for people who are homeless, straight out of prison or on probation.

"We have got quite a high resident ex-offender and current-offender population in River ward and that's really down to AMAT.

"We do have this entrenched drinking and drug-taking problem in the middle of the ward. We particularly have a street-drinking problem that you can see on a daily basis.

"I know there have been attempts

to crack down on that, but I still think the alcohol exclusion zone should be more rigorously enforced.

"It is a worry that we don't have much of a night-time economy here, with most of it in Rochester, so there's not a reason for people to be in the town centre late at night yet we are still getting assaults and violence."

But AMAT vehemently denies claims its existence encourages bad behaviour in Chatham's town centre.

The charity was founded in 1998 and allows the homeless to turn up to the Chelmer Road centre. After com-

pleting a referral interview they could then be granted accommodation on the same day.

The centre remains open every day of the year, with each of its residents offered a washing kit including soap, shampoo, toothbrush and towel as well as a plate, bowl, cutlery and a pan for cooking.

The charity works with the police and probation service to provide housing for repeat offenders and those who are engaging in substance misuse.

A spokesman for AMAT UK said the area would experience greater problems with crime if it did not exist.

"It is misleading to suggest that accommodation-providers such as AMAT are a possible cause of a problem which exists and is growing on a national scale," he said.

"It would be more appropriate to see these service-providers as a back-up to the front-line services such as the police and the ambulance and other statutory organisations which help to manage the problem. The problem will exist with or without AMAT."



CONTROVERSY: Craig Mackinlay's claims have been strongly refuted by the homelessness charity AMAT

He added: "We have always worked very closely with the police, probation office and other key voluntary and statutory organisations, including Medway Council, and will continue to do so to help those services or individuals who need our assistance.

"People who use our services come to us as homeless, with support needs, and are often vulnerable. We operate across Medway and accept referrals from all of the services named above and are often requested to house people by the police, probation and Medway Council, to name a few.

"Homelessness is on the increase across the country and Medway is no different. As a result our services are in demand."



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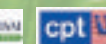
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COURT

Woman guilty of pensioner's death after leaving handbrake off in shopping centre car park

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CHILD MINDER is to be sentenced after being found guilty of killing a pensioner by leaving off the handbrake in her car in Bluewater car park.

Pensioner Claire Bishop, 71, was mown down and pinned against another car in the incident on January 4 last year.

She died five days later in hospital. Maidstone Crown Court heard how motorist Dawn Chedd, of Cranleigh Drive in Swanley, had parked her automatic Vauxhall Zafira in a bay in the car park of the busy shopping centre near Greenhithe. The car was still in reverse gear and the handbrake was not set.

The vehicle shot from the bay at speed in reverse, hitting three parked vehicles before running over Mrs Bishop as she walked through the car park with her husband, pinning her against another car. Mrs Bishop, from Bexleyheath, suffered serious injuries.

Chedd is believed to have stepped on the accelerator for unknown reasons.

The driver's door was open and she was dragged along by the Zafira before it hit a parked car, throwing her to the ground.

She suffered minor injuries.

Following an investigation by the Kent Police Serious Collision Investigation Unit, Chedd was charged with causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving.

The 49-year-old denied the charge and claimed to have no memory of the accident, but she was found guilty by a jury and is due to be sentenced on Monday, July 15.

Following the verdict, Mrs Bishop's family paid tribute to "a loving wife, mum and nana".

"She is dearly missed by her family and her many friends, who she loved to have around her," the tribute said.

Investigating officer PC Glen Braidwood said it was an "extremely tragic case" in which a number of errors

led to an innocent bystander losing her life.

"It underlines the importance of driving with due care and attention at all times – not just when behind the wheel but when entering or exiting a vehicle," he said.

"We will never know why Chedd did not use her handbrake or why she left the gearbox engaged in reverse.

"Losing focus for just a second led to a catastrophic series of events in which Mrs Bishop died and Chedd was left injured.

"That momentary error has had an immeasurable impact on a number of lives, Chedd's included.

"I'd like to praise Mrs Bishop's family for their strength and courage in reliving those terrible events and speak for all of Kent Police when I say that our thoughts are with them as they try to come to terms with this tragedy.

"I hope this result can bring them a measure of closure as they try to move on with their lives without Claire."



VICTIM: Claire Bishop was walking through Bluewater car park with her husband



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EVENTS

Let them entertain you: festival season

Joe Bill takes a look at 10 of the best jamborees the county has to offer this summer. From food

WHETHER it's music, crafts, apples or ales, our county has become renowned for its popular festival circuit.

And with hopes that we've seen the back of last year's rain, festival-goers are looking ahead to a packed festival season.

But it's not just for us Kentish folk. Our neighbours from across the Channel are always out in force for the musical events, while Londoners and food fanatics travel down to sunny Whitstable for the ever-growing Oyster Festival. And we all know how far some will go for a fine brew!

KoS has compiled the must-have list of the county's best festivals – but which ones will you be attending?

1 Whitstable Oyster Festival

Saturday, July 27 – Friday, August 2
THE famous festival set in Whitstable dates back to Norman times, when the fishing port would come alive to celebrate the seafood harvest.

Today, the annual 'Landing of the Oysters' is one of the most traditional non-religious ceremonies in the county as Whitstable Sea Scouts bring the delicious seafood ashore for a presentation to the Lord Mayor. This is followed by a vibrant Oyster Parade through the town.

The festival has been lauded by its celebrity fans who take in the ales, foods and bands playing in pubs up and down the quaint high street and beach areas.

■ www.whitstableoysterfestival.com



2 Broadstairs Food Festival

Friday to Sunday, October 4-6

A RELATIVE newcomer to the festival scene, Broadstairs Food Festival began in 2009 and has grown into a major event in the Kent calendar with tens of thousands turning out to celebrate the best of our county's produce.

The event shows off award-winning food, drink and retailers, with covered markets and stalls to browse. Additionally, the entertainment side has also grown, with live cooking demonstrations from famous faces, gala dinners, quiz nights and plenty of live music.

■ www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk

3 Lounge on the Farm

Friday to Sunday, July 26-28

KNOWN as the original 'boutique music festi-

val', Lounge has taken just eight years to grow into a top-level event registering on the national radar.

Set on the working Merton Farm in Canterbury, it has all the trademarks of a traditional Glastonbury-style party with camping areas, port-a-loos and great music.

But Lounge is different: there are children's entertainment areas, stand-up comedy tents, locally-sourced food vendors and intimate gigging areas for up-and-coming bands.

But don't think it doesn't attract the headline acts, with the likes of Jake Bugg, Emilie Sande, The Streets and The Charlatans taking to the stage in recent years.

This year, look out for 90s stars Soul II Soul and Aswad.

■ www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk

4 Faversham Hop Festival

Saturday and Sunday, August 31-September 1

FAVERSHAM Hop Festival is an annual two-day family event to commemorate the golden days of hop-picking and has become a big draw for ale-lovers from around the UK and Europe as it shares the same town as famous brewery Shepherd Neame.

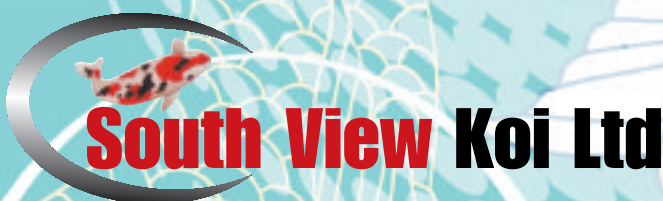
Local bands play both on main stages and in the pubs while the ale enthusiasts fill their tankards with the latest and greatest tipples.

■ www.favershamhopfestival.org

5 Medway Fuse Festival

Friday to Sunday, June 14-16

ONE of the younger festivals in Kent, Medway's Fuse offers the area's burgeoning creative talent the stage on which to perform.



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is gearing up once again

to music, there is much to see and do in the coming months

In the town centres of Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, visitors gather to watch street performers ranging from circus acts to storytellers and from Shakespearean plays to alternative comedy.

■ www.fusefestival.org.uk

6 Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show

Friday to Sunday, September 6-8

THE craft and design show at beautiful Penshurst Place and Gardens is the best known in Kent and does exactly what it says on the tin.

It offers a huge range of unique crafts and handmade items and attracts stallholders from all over the UK. Last year there were more than 250 exhibitors as well as live music and home-made snacks.

■ www.penshurstplace.com

7 Maidstone/MidKent CAMRA Beer Festival

Saturday, September 7

TRADITIONALLY held at East Malling Research Centre, this CAMRA beer festival offers the very best ales from across the South East.

Microbreweries bring out the tipples they have been working on all year for everyone to taste while tankards are re-



DOCKSIDE: Whitstable's Oyster Festival continues to draw in the crowds each year

peatedly filled for the beverage enthusiasts looking to try the next big thing.

There is live music and a free bus service back to the train stations – so no need for the designated drivers!

■ www.mmkcampa.co.uk

8 Folkestone Book Festival

Friday to Sunday, November 15-24

ONE of the last festivals in the Kent calendar, Folkestone Book Festival is based

at the town's Quarterhouse arts venue.

In recent years there have been live readings from former prime minister Sir John Major and famous book-club fan Judy Finnegan.

■ www.artsfestivals.co.uk/folkestone-book-festival

9 Sound Island Festival

Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28

HELD at Quex Park in Birchington, Sound Island Festival has turned heads in recent years by booking acts that other music events its size could not get.

Recent years have seen alternative headliners such as Cast, The Lightning Seeds and Madness take to the main stage, but 2013's line-up is more contemporary, with Jessie J, Rita Ora and Plan B topping the bill.

■ www.soundislandfestival.com

10 Brogdale Cherry Festival

Saturday and Sunday, July 20-21

BROGDALE, home to the National Fruit Collection, offers a variety of events but is best known for its cherry festival.

There are chances to taste and buy, along with interesting orchard tours, food and craft stalls, cooking demonstrations and live entertainment.

■ www.brogdalecollections.co.uk

DISCOVERY

WWII bomb found under library

A BOMB squad was called to Crayford town centre on Thursday after builders working under the library made a startling discovery – a Second World War mortar bomb.

Workmen working on the building in High Street raised the alarm after their tools clanged

against the old artillery shell.

The Crayford one-way system was shut while the bomb, which turned out to have no explosives inside, was examined. A Bexley Council spokesman said: "It was a relief when it turned out the shells were not likely to explode."

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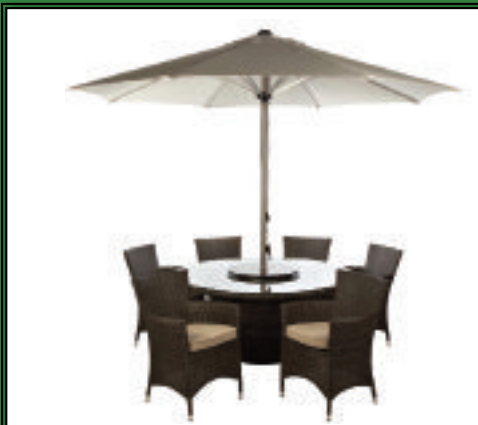
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CHARITY

Cancelled airshow cash donated to RAF fund

Event organisers tell **Chris Murphy** they have not given up hope of a return next year

MONEY raised by a seaside community desperate to save this year's now-cancelled Folkestone Airshow will be handed to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Some £140,000 was needed to stage the spectacular event off the cliffs of the coastal town, but organisers fell short by about £30,000.

The bulk of the cash pledged came from local businesses and organisations that has now been handed back, with the organisers asking that they keep it to one side for a possible show next year.

But several hundred pounds was also raised by volunteers shaking tins in the town and this will be donated to the RAF fund.

Airshow project manager Yvonne Holder said it was not possible to return money to the many individuals who had contributed through collection boxes in stores, shops and Folkestone Town Hall and at events, and therefore it had been decided it should go to the most appropriate charity.

She told KoS: "We felt that was the right thing to do and we hope people will agree with the decision. Questions were being asked about what happened to that money and I want to make it clear it is going to the RAF."



RED ARROWS TO FLY

Despite the cancellation, a community event means that the Red Arrows will still be taking to the county's skies.

The display will fly over an event organised by The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust at Capel-le-Ferne next Saturday (June 8).

Originally planned as a fringe event to support Folkestone Airshow, it was decided to continue with plans for the memorial show, which organisers say has seen an increasing amount of interest.

Alongside the normal attractions at the National Memorial, which is on the coast road just outside Folkestone, visitors can enjoy farmers' market stalls, face-painting and the chance to make, paint and take home an Airfix Hurricane model, thanks to support from Hornby.

Hurricane pilot and Battle of Britain veteran Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC will also be at the event – and as the Red Arrows have now announced that they will, after all, be flying over Folkestone that afternoon – the site will offer a vantage point for that spectacle, too.

for the fund-raising events that had to be cancelled, for allowing them to be carried forward to a future show."

A source close to the event said last year there were problems with too few toilets and a speaker system that didn't reach the entire audience spread across a vast area of the coastline.

That's why for this year, the organisation of the show was taken on fully by Folkestone Town Centre Management Ltd.

The event was due to take place on The Leas and in the harbour area on Saturday, June 8, and would have included aerobatics and fly-pasts by Second World War aircraft. It was expected to attract some 100,000 visitors.

Ms Holder said: "We want to be as open as we can about the show and would welcome any financial help anyone can offer. The council used to run it with a budget of £250,000, but in these hard times that money is no longer available."

The RAF Benevolent Fund supports all serving and former members of the RAF as well as their families.

Anyone who can help contribute to the airshow next year can email Yvonne.holder@folkestoneairshow.com to find out more.

"I am still very hopeful of staging an airshow in Folkestone next year and we are on the look-out for a lead sponsor to help make it all happen."

"There is plenty of scope for smaller

local firms to take part, too. I fully appreciate times are hard, but the last airshow brought in big crowds and it would be a shame to lose having that opportunity to do business.

"Companies and organisations that pre-paid for advertisements in the airshow programme have had their money returned."

"We are grateful to donors of prizes

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HISTORY

Photo archive brings war and peace to life

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

INCREDIBLE photographs of Kent last century will be on show to visitors at the upcoming War and Peace Revival being held at Folkestone Racecourse.

Shots of the Royal Family at Canterbury's Westgate and families enjoying the sands of Ramsgate beach will delight history fans at the event, from Wednesday to Sunday, July 17-21.

There are also rare pictures of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Field Marshall Montgomery.

The revival show, which was previously staged at The Hop Farm, Pad-dock Wood, is expecting up to 100,000 spectators to experience the

largest assembly of military vehicles anywhere in the world.

There will be re-creations of battles, focusing on the Second World War, as well as 1940s fashions, music, displays and food and drink stalls.

Organiser Rex Cadman says the site at Westenhangar, a one-time RAF base housing an Army liaison squadron, is ideal for the show as the area has so much military history.

"The area was known as Hellfire Corner in the war against Hitler's Germany, so we are very proud to make it our new venue," he said.

"The grandstand provides excellent views of the area where the vehicles will be displayed and the re-enactments take place.

"For the first time, the event will be shown on closed-circuit TV, so visitors can have a beer in the bar while they watch what's going on."

Southern England's largest outdoor event started off 31 years ago with a small gathering of military-vehicle fans at the Kent and East Sussex Railway in Tenterden.

"There were 100 exhibitors and it's grown to the thousands we have now," said Mr Cadman, who with his brother Rod



SUMMER HOLIDAYS: Families make the most of the sunshine with a visit to the beach in Ramsgate during the 1950s



V! Winston Churchill in Dover in 1951

started his collection of about 150 military vehicles with a jeep and became involved in the show in 1989.

The event is likely to attract some 100,000 visitors, providing a big boost to the south Kent economy.

■ Are you in any of these photographs, or do you recognise anyone in them? Please share your memories with us.

Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

or write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth TN25 6SS. Alternatively, phone reporter Joe Bill on 01303 817048.

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News

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Pictures: WAR AND PEACE REVIVAL



EVACUATION: At Maidstone West station, c1940



COMMUNITY: VJ party at Queens Road, Maidstone



RATION: Queuing at York Road, Tunbridge Wells, c1942



VISIT: The royal family at Canterbury's Westgate Towers, 1946



HERO: Field Marshal Montgomery visits Dover in March 1946

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CRIME

Family members jailed for role in cover-up after son's 'sickening' attack

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FOUR members of the same family have been locked up following a "sickening and violent" attack on a 25-year-old man that left him fighting for his life on a cliff-top.

Joe Bath, from Margate, was beaten unconscious and stabbed in the face during the brutal assault on August 12 last year.

He suffered such horrific injuries that his mother didn't recognise him in hospital.

Boxer Lee Cekic, 24, formerly of George Hill Road, Broadstairs, was jailed for 15 years after admitting false imprisonment and grievous bodily harm with intent at Canterbury Crown Court.

His sister Jade Cekic, 22, of Vicarage Place, Margate, and parents Paula and Negovan Cekic, were sentenced to 21 months for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The court heard how in the early hours of August 12 Mr Bath had been involved in an altercation with Miss Cekic in Kabuki nightclub in Margate.

Miss Cekic, Bath's ex-girlfriend and mother of his child, was thrown out after being seen to head-butt her former lover.

Mr Bath was later walking through Cecil Square and was called over to a Ford Focus driven by Lee Cekic and he got in. Miss Cekic was also in the car.

Lee Cekic drove the car, assaulting Mr Bath at the same time, stabbing him in the face.

During the drive, Mr Bath was taken out of the vehicle twice, beaten unconscious and put back into the car as it made its way between Thanet and Herne Bay and back to Thanet.

The seriously-injured Mr Bath eventually escaped and raised the alarm at a nearby house in Kingsgate Bay Road, Kingsgate. Cekic's car was later found burnt out in Herne Bay.

Mr Bath, whose injuries were described as life-threatening, suffered stab wounds to his head, two bleeds on the brain, a fractured skull and significant bruising all over his body.

The police investigation uncovered mobile-phone conversations between Cekic and his parents as they attempted to assist their children cover up the attack.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Fotheringham, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "There is no doubt in my mind that Lee Cekic intended to seriously hurt Mr Bath and subjected him to a terrifying and horrific ordeal.



VICIOUS ASSAULT: Joe Bath, left, suffered life-threatening injuries after 25-year-old Lee Cekic drove him between Thanet and Herne Bay stabbing and beating him into unconsciousness in August last year

"It was a sickening and violent attack which left the victim with horrendous injuries and he will be scarred for life.

"The offender's parents and his sister then assisted Lee in attempting to cover up this crime, giving false statements to the police and trying to shift the blame elsewhere.

"Mr Bath has shown great courage and bravery by standing up to his attacker in providing evidence, and I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the officers who carried out thorough and painstaking investigations and uncovered the full extent of the assault despite attempts to cover it up."

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FARMING

The quest for green electricity that's turned a

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT WASN'T long ago that Kent's vast glowing fields of rapeseed oil played second fiddle to seemingly more important wheat harvests – but science has turned the crop into gold.

Not only has it become the world's third-largest source for vegetable oil used in cooking but it is also used in biomass power stations and can be turned into biodiesel.

And that's the secret to its future.

One of the county's leading experts in the field is Doug Jackson, who runs AG Advisory in Faversham, offering farmers independent advice on a range of areas, including business management, crop-rotation and marketing.

The former farm-worker told KoS that rapeseed had in the past been the 'break crop', which helps improve the yield of the upcoming cereal crop, such as wheat, the 'catch crop'.

"What has happened is, because demand is rising – and a part of the reason for that is its use as a biodiesel – the residue value has increased," he said. "That means its economic contribution has soared.

"Instead of being seen, as it once was, as the least-bad crop to have in the ground, it now has its own major value.

"It has been improving as a crop, value wise, and in some cases is now more profitable than wheat. This is why we are now seeing more of it in Kent and the rest of the world.

"The demand from the governments, both



here and in Europe, for biodiesel is underpinning this value at the moment."

But the appalling weather, from drought to heavy rainfall and springtime snow, has had a damaging impact on crops.

Mr Jackson said: "It has been very, very damaging and there have been large areas that have

been written off – maybe around a quarter of this year's crop has gone."

Annually growing some 2.5 million tonnes, the UK is the world's seventh-largest producer.

Mr Jackson said: "Animal feed is a by-product of rapeseed. The seed is taken and the oil used for cooking and frying. The residue is known as rape

meal and that is for animal use. These demands will always be there, so farmers can be certain of finding a market for their crops. The demand for biodiesel has simply boosted its profitability."

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low-value crop to gold



GROWING INTEREST: Doug Jackson offers independent advice to farmers and says that rapeseed is increasing in value as a crop to grow

£5.3 million cash injection to fund 15 biology projects across the UK.

One is looking for ways to produce high-value chemical products such as bases for fragrances and air-fresheners from cheap industrial feed-stocks such as rapeseed oil.

Science minister David Willetts said it would be an "increasingly important" part of the global economy over the coming years.

Defra also backed research from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, which showed it is nutritionally possible to reduce methane emissions and nitrogen excretion from cattle and sheep. One way is to use crushed rapeseed as feed to cut methane production from dairy cows by 20 per cent.

Mr Jackson said: "Science does not stand still and is always looking to improve production and uses of crops like this."

But while rapeseed is proving a popular crop, it comes with some grievances, in the form of health issues such as hay fever and asthma.

Mr Jackson said, however, that the link had never been proved.

"Every single plant has pollen. It seems possible that as rapeseed is so visually striking, people tend to think it is also the cause of hay fever, more than any other plant," he said.

"In reality, it could be down to a number of factors."

cosinolates made it unpleasant for human consumption, but food engineers over the generations have created a product that now has a long-term future and will be a common sight in Kent for many decades to come.

In March, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), announced a

In 2010 – the most recent data from Defra – Kent grew 21,698 hectares of oilseed rape, which is 3.6 per cent of the English total area grown.

Kent represents 2.98 per cent of the English arable cropped area; therefore, based on the most recent data, Kent does grow a higher

proportion of oilseed rape compared with other arable cropping areas.

Some 21,698 hectares would yield about 76,000 tonnes of oilseed rape, which equates to 30,400 tonnes of rapeseed oil, approximately 32 million litres.



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HEALTHCARE

Pacemaker recycling provides life after death

International alliance changes lives as devices are donated to India's poorest heart patients

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FUNERAL director has devised a pioneering national scheme to recycle heart pacemakers and help save hundreds of lives abroad.

Sick, deprived patients in Mumbai in India will receive the medical devices and see their health improved through the life-changing treatment.

And while benefitting those in need, the scheme also helps undertakers to tackle the problem of how to dispose of pacemakers, which have become increasingly common.

Jo Parker, who runs Abbey Funeral Services in Tonbridge, said that undertakers had to ensure the pacemakers were removed before funerals.

However, disposal is difficult and expensive, due to a radioactive element used in the devices, which means some are forced to store them on their own premises.

And even more frustrating, many of the valuable and vital devices are then destroyed in what Ms Parker called a "chronic waste".

"Disposal of these items has been a question that has dogged funeral directors over the years," said Ms Parker.



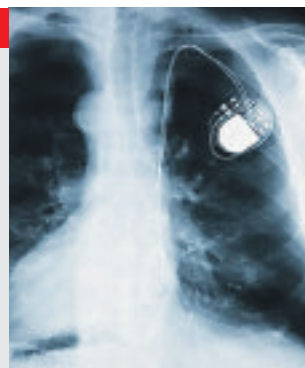
FACT FILE

A pacemaker is a small battery-operated device that sends out electrical pulses to help keep a person's heart beating regularly.

They are for people with heart conditions – caused by problems with electrical signals that control the heart – such as an abnormally slow or fast heartbeat, or an irregular heartbeat.

In 2010, some 40,000 people had one fitted.

GOOD IDEA: Jo Parker has arranged for pacemakers to go to India



Dr Nichani said he would pass the pacemakers on to his adult cardiology colleagues.

Dr Brian Pinto, lead adult cardiologist at the Holy Family Hospital and the Holy Spirit Hospital, has pledged to use them solely for the poorest patients that he and his colleagues treat.

Ms Parker said: "Having found a charity, I thought why not make this bigger than a few Kent members – why not roll this out nationally."

"The Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) has over 1,000 funeral homes as members – what a difference we can make."

"I believe this gesture provides a small legacy for the deceased as well as allowing us, the funeral director, to give the precious gift of life to many."

John Weir, who runs a chain of funeral directors in Kent, is the national spokesman for SAIF.

He welcomed the move, saying: "Many funeral directors just stockpile them, which is less than ideal. A way of recycling them is beneficial for all involved. It avoids wasting a costly and sophisticated life-saving device and gives the chance of life to others who cannot normally afford this sort of medical help."

er. "Generally they are disposed of by specialised clinical-waste companies or we take them back to our local hospitals.

"However, both options are either costly or becoming increasingly unavailable.

"My local hospital in Tunbridge Wells has stopped removing pacemakers in its mortuary, so we now have no means of disposing of them.

"Some nine times out of 10 we remove the pacemaker in our mortuary and thereby the onus of responsibility

to dispose of them correctly falls on us, the funeral director."

In a bid to tackle the problem, Ms Parker made contact with heart hospitals, heart charities and manufacturers of the pacemakers to see if there was some way of recycling them.

"I thought about overseas charities and stumbled upon one called Healing Little Hearts," she said. "The founder is a consultant paediatrician at University Hospital Leicester – Dr Nichani Sanjiv. He takes medical teams to India to perform life-saving

surgery on children whose families can't afford medical care.

"I contacted Dr Nichani, who was delighted with the idea of recycling our pacemakers.

"Although he works with the children in the hospital, he has spoken with his medical colleagues who take care of the very poorest patients that come into the Holy Family Hospital in Mumbai and the Government hospital, King Edward Medical College, and the pacemakers we send will be used to change their lives."

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WED 26 **Milton Keynes** Chrysalis Theatre*
FRI 28 **Stratford-upon-Avon** Courtyard Theatre

JULY

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WED 3 **Exeter** Exeter Phoenix
FRI 5 **Falmouth** Princess Pavilions*
SAT 6 **Bath** Pavilion*
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We are delighted to be able to bring you the very first **Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards**

THE Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards will take place at Tudor Park Hotel on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 6.30pm to midnight.

These brand-new awards are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the good and the great from the county's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers – people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies nominated will all be voted for by you, our readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your farmers' market or farm shop.

Entry forms are available online at www.kentnews.co.uk.

Entries close on Friday, August 30, 2013.

Our panel of judges will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony in November, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal based on locally-sourced produce before finding out if they are a winner.

This is the first Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you the chance to reward and recognise the deserving businesses

within our local food and drink industry, the ones that consistently go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a budding chef or local producer, then help to spread the word among your clients and visitors.

With our online voting system up and running, it takes no time at all to cast your vote.

The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than number of votes, so everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small your business is.

Event Partner:



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink business who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. It could be any food and drink business but we want to know what impact they have made on the local community and whether they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience? Tell us who has impressed you.

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

This category is here for one reason and that is to praise our many local butchers and everything they do for Kent. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Does the butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them.

BEST TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR



We recognise that tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing about your favourites.

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This category acknowledges the hard work Kent's independent food and drink retailers put into giving their customers the best possible experience in-store, reinforcing their role at the heart of the community and showing true innovation with their displays. We are looking for independent retailers who put local and seasonal at the heart of the food and drink experience and who are proud to work with and support the best the Garden of England can offer.

BEST FARM SHOP



Just like our Farmers' Markets, a good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

BEST FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCER



This category celebrates our local suppliers and producers who play such a vital role in the food community. We are looking for someone who consistently provides a reliable quality of products and services to their customers. So whether it's your local bakery, drinks merchant or meat producer, we want to know why this person or business goes the extra mile for you and gets your vote.

BEST FAMILY DINING VENUE



We've all experienced that sinking feeling when you go out for a meal with the family and you know almost immediately the proprietors and staff would have preferred you to have left the kids at home. We want to know about the exact opposite, those establishments that welcome and treat with respect your whole party, from elderly to very young, and ideally don't banish you too an outer

AWARDS CRITERIA

room away from the main dining area. Do they have high-quality menus that suit every age group, provide high chairs if needed, offer useful distractions such as paper and crayons for younger children to use at the table? Is there a children's play area and good baby-changing facilities in the toilets? And most importantly is the food of an excellent standard and worthy of mum and dad as well as the younger members of the party? Tell us all about your best family dining experience in Kent.

BEST PUB OF THE YEAR



Combining country pubs and dining pubs, the whole eating-out experience needs to be taken into account in this category. Customer service, value for money and the quality of the food should all be accounted for. How well does the establishment you recommend use and name local suppliers and seasonal produce throughout its menus? Neighbourhood pubs are at the heart of the local community and this category is your chance to give something back for all the enjoyment they give you. Are the staff friendly and welcoming, even if it isn't your local? Are there local ales, juices, wines and ciders available to purchase and if so, are they proudly on display? Also, note the quality and speed of the service, the overall atmosphere and ambience, both inside and outside in the beer garden.

BEST FARMER'S MARKET



The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers, is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks, is it well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance, is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



We suspect that this category will be one of our most coveted awards, as the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced and does it change with the seasons? Does chef support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Look through the wine list, are there local as well as international wines and sparkling wines and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from our Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

BEST KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO



Kent has a food and drink scene that is more vibrant than many others across the UK. This category celebrates the individual who has made the most impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent food and drink hero.

KENT REMEMBERED



ROMANCE: Jane Austen had strong links with Kent after her brother moved and then married here

County that captured Jane Austen's heart

By Claire Slater

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the most famous and admired authors in British history, Jane Austen is universally acknowledged as the woman responsible for some of English literature's greatest novels.

From the much-loved *Pride And Prejudice* and *Sense And Sensibility* to *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*, her works have stood the test of time and continue to play a big part in education today.

Perhaps less well known, however, was her love affair with our county.

So enthralled was Austen, she frequently wrote about her time in Kent in letters to her sister, and even, it has been said, used characters and scenes from the area in her novel *Mansfield Park*.

Austen's father George Austen was born in Tonbridge and the family links were resumed when her older brother Edward was adopted in 1780, at the age of 12, by rich relative Thomas Knight.

Mr Knight owned the impressive Godmersham Park House, which is near the River Stour, just off the A28 between Canterbury and Ashford.

Her ties to the county continued when Austen's brother married Elizabeth Bridges, who lived before the marriage at Goodnestone Park, near Canterbury, with her parents Sir Brook Bridges and Lady Fanny.

Until they inherited Godmersham, Edward and his wife lived in a smaller house on the Goodnestone estate, called Rowling House, and when Austen visited her brother she was often entertained with dinners and dances.

Once her brother had inherited Godmersham Park, Austen was a frequent visitor, helping to look after her nephews and nieces.

As she often travelled there separately from her sister and close companion Cassandra Austen, she wrote frequently to her about life in the Garden of England.

It would seem that in Kent, Austen particu-

larly enjoyed a taste of the luxuries denied to her in her simple life in Hampshire, sampling such delights as riding in a private carriage and tasting ice-cream made from Godmersham's own ice house, which was sunk into the grounds of the estate.

In a letter to her sister in July 1808, nine years before her death, she wrote about enjoying the pleasures of Godmersham, comparing it with the financial constraints at home in Hampshire: "But in the meantime for elegance and ease and luxury... I shall eat ice and drink French wine, and be above vulgar economy."

During her trips here, Austen visited many places, going to church in Canterbury and visiting local families.

One place she visited was Chartham, recorded in 1813 in a letter to Cassandra, during a trip to the household of Reverend John Fagg.

Reverend Fagg was the rector of Chartham from 1803-1822 and lived with his family at Mystole House, which still stands near Shalmsford Street.

Austen wrote in her usual ironic and, on this occasion, cutting fashion about her visit: "The ladies were at home. I was in luck and saw Lady Fagg and all her five daughters, with an old Mrs Hamilton, from Canterbury, and Mrs and Miss Chapman, from Margate, into the bargain."

"I never saw so plain a family – five sisters so very plain!"

"They are as plain as the Foresters, or the Franfraddops, or the Seagraves, or the Rivers, excluding Sophy. Miss Sally Fagg has a pretty figure, and that comprises all the good looks of the family."

"It was stupidish; Fanny [Austen's niece] did her part very well, but there was a lack of talk altogether, and the three friends in the house only sat by and looked at us."

While Austen can be claimed by Hampshire as one of its own, Kent can sit happy in the fact it was her favourite place to which to escape.

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OPINION

Don't build over the beauty

Jasper Gerard takes up the fight against the ruling Conservatives who he says are covering the county he loves in housing estates

"KENT, sir – everybody knows Kent – apples, cherries, hops and women."

If Charles Dickens returned today, he would still, no doubt, be charmed by its women. But what would he make of apples, cherries and hops barrelling up the M20 in giant container trucks from the Continent?

Rural Kent is endangered. Recently a friend questioned my enduring passion for this, the county of my birth: "They used to call it the Garden of England, but it's becoming the garden centre of England."

Ouch! I wanted to drag him (by his urban collar) across the Medway Valley before June blows away the last of April's blossom. Or to Marden and Frittenden, where homely farmsteads with oasts still charm the landscape. Or high on the downs, to take in the greenness of The Weald. How dare he belittle my beloved Kent?

But, like all hurtful remarks, it contained a kernel of truth. Around our county town, Conservatives running the borough council are hell-bent on building 14,800 houses.

It's a similar story across our county: green spaces vanishing, small slice upon small slice, much like a cake left in the hands of children.

Sure, we need more homes, but where, how many and what type requires thought. In Maidstone, Liberal Democrats are campaigning with residents to save woodland that has survived since the end of the Ice Age. Building there would break every planning rule, but the Conservatives don't care.

Rather than planning, they have invited developers to offer sites for building – anywhere. Some 200 spaces are being considered, while brownfield sites fester neglected. Even the Medway Valley is threatened.

Not only is this environmental vandalism – it is socially destructive. Roads are choked, surgeries over-subscribed and schools deluged. There has been a 25 per cent increase in the birth rate, yet a site marked for a new primary school has been tossed to salivating developers. We have an educational, health and transport crisis before a single extra house has been built. Imagine the quality of life with 15,000 more houses.

Kent Conservatives insist they are only obeying orders from Government. But the coalition government confirms it has abolished top-down targets; it is for communities to decide what houses they want.

Besides, the local Conservatives' targets are out of date. Arguably, using the latest Census and their calculations, the target for Maidstone is 19,400 houses by 2031. An eye-watering amount and one we



6699

Imagine the quality of life with 15,000 more houses

cannot deliver. And even if we could, the cry would go up: "The incomers have divorced, had children *etc* – where will THOSE folk live? We must build more..." And the Tories would.

It was recognised decades ago that demand for health care is limitless. Ditto roads: you build a relief road and soon it will be as clogged as the road you were relieving. Demand for housing here is also infinite.

Alas, the Conservatives, who (mis)rule here, lack the courage to defend our county. Or are they just blind to the beauty Dickens and the rest of us see so clearly in our landscape?

See <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/maidstone-borough-council-save-our-bluebell-wood> to sign the petition against the Maidstone plan.

■ **Jasper Gerard** is Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesman for Maidstone and The Weald

KOS COMMENT

Change in school age marks society shift

A CHANGE in schooling-age not only creates a big decision for our teenagers but signals a significant shift in society.

It could see the start of a new generation of skilled tradesmen and women who, had they not been forced to stay in education, would have left school at 16.

It could also prompt bright but disillusioned children to stay on and achieve great things.

Perhaps most importantly, it might help get our country back on its feet by creating a young new workforce through apprenticeships or vocational courses, along with a wave of ambitious students ready to take on the academic world.

But as to the question of school or college? That's down to them.

Let's celebrate the M2

IT can, at times, be a hellish place, like any motorway, but the M2 is as much-needed today as it was 50 years ago.

And perhaps it's a strange thing to celebrate, but we should be proud of this stretch of road that has taken the strain off many of our towns. Remember that the next time you're stuck in a jam.



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Britons should have first pick

FRUIT harvesting and field work should first be offered to unemployed Britons.

My son, who was a full-time carer to his late wife for 16 years, is desperate for work to supplement his benefits as he still has a child at college to care for.

Aged 47, and without a work history for the last 16 years, what kind of employment can he seek?

He has no transport and does not have the funds to get a car. He drove his wife's Motability vehicle, but that ceased upon her death.

Even if he could afford a vehicle, the insurance – without his own no-claims bonus – would be excessive.

My mother worked on the

fields for many years; transportation was provided to and from Chatham by the farmers.

She picked every type of crop in all weathers.

When my children were young, I too supplemented our income by strawberry- and pea-picking during the 60s. We lived in nice houses and had working husbands, so this work could never be termed as being 'beneath' us.

These jobs should now be given to the country's unemployed men and women, with transportation subsidised by the Government.

There should be credits paid to balance any shortfall in their income or benefits. This would soon get some of the country back on its feet and the work-shy learning about work ethics.

Also, where are the jobs advertised that you see foreign workers doing? We see and

hear them on building sites, roadworks, cafés and shops. How did they get these jobs?
Rita Arnold, by email

Why not split the difference?

BEFORE rushing to widespread adoption of a 20mph limit in built-up areas, it might be appropriate to consider how well the present 30mph limit is observed.

Driving at this speed, it is quite usual to acquire, often within seconds, at least one vehicle following closely behind, sometimes rapidly lengthening to a sizeable procession.

How much effect would better adherence to the existing limit have on accident rates?

Aside from this, the 20mph limit presents some difficulties. It is slow enough to tempt

drivers into inattention; it is more difficult to adhere to; and it leads to higher fuel consumption because of the need to use a lower gear.

In the UK, speed limits are separated by intervals of 10mph, but other European countries space them by 10kph (6mph). Why do we never consider following that precedent, adopting in this case 25mph as a limit?

ARW Smith, Dartford

20mph limit is no 'nirvana'

RICHARD Mountford's letter to KoS painted the usual picture of some imaginary 20mph nirvana, blinkered to the realities of the real world.

Firstly, he wants 20mph, 24 hours a day, when for some of that time 99 per cent of the population will be

asleep and pedestrian/cyclist movement is very limited.

Would his suggestion only be on residential streets?

Barring motorways or some dual-carriageways, all roads have residents, so this is an open invitation to downgrade all speed limits.

The Department for Transport has stated that major roads can have this speed limit.

How can journey times be increased by just a "few minutes" when you have mile after mile of traffic reduced to this crawling speed?

We have all been stuck behind a tractor, yet this is the speed limit 20mph supporters wish to impose on us.

Many roads abutting 20mph roads will also have their speed limits downgraded.

Roads are for the movement of people and goods and are the economic arteries of the

country. To keep creating congestion does not benefit anyone.

Engines are most fuel- and pollution-efficient when at their working temperature; slowing this process by enforced congestion caused by such low speed limits will only make matters worse.

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Investment is all it takes, sir

IN reference to 'MP is missing the real point' (Letters, May 19, Nicholas Reed, chairman Why Not Manston?).

If Infratil believed Manston could be successful, why did it not do what the Stobart Group did with Southend airport?

It invested millions into the airport and paid for its own rail connection.

So why, Mr Reed, don't you ask Infratil why it doesn't fork out the so-called £15 million needed for improvements? Why should the taxpayer pay when Infratil will pocket the profit?

Brian Shelvey, Ramsgate

Tory fighting stops EU hope

LEADING business figures including Sir Richard Branson and Martin Sorrell last week stressed the overwhelming economic benefits of EU membership.

Now the European Parliament has just given the go-ahead to a comprehensive EU-US trade agreement, worth up to £10 billion a year to the British economy or almost £400 per household, the economic case is getting even stronger.

With the UK taking the lead, there is enough momentum on both sides of the Atlantic to see this deal agreed. It would have an incredible impact in Kent.

However, at a time when our biggest priority should be creating jobs and getting our economy back on track, the Conservatives seem to be more concerned with appeasing the anti-EU wing of their party and countering the threat from Ukipp.

I now want to focus on creating jobs, getting the economy moving again and putting more money into people's pockets, not on endless navel-gazing about our relationship with Europe.

**Jasper Gerard,
Liberal Democrat
parliamentary spokesman**

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ANGELA, adventurous beauty seeks discreet man for pleasing times. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 355761

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071 ☺

JAYNE 44, bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011 ☺

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993 ☺

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTm n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799 ☺

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curly, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTm loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787 ☺

GEORGINA widow, WLTm gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877 ☺

YOU can't have everything in life but you can have some fun with Katerina, sexy busty figured lady. If you are discreet call now. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 347317

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333

LIZ blonde blue eyed curly female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773 ☺

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765 ☺

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891 ☺

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423 ☺

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774 ☺

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751 ☺

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779 ☺

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Unbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417 ☺

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTm lady, Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus, to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273 ☺

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761 ☺

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481 ☺

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391 ☺

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891 ☺

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287 ☺

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769 ☺

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341 ☺

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173 ☺

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759 ☺

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523 ☺

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275 ☺

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759 ☺

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915 ☺

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521 ☺

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329 ☺

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797 ☺

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382 ☺

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353 ☺

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248 ☺

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

VIC mid 60's medium build, DIY, active, N/S, likes countryside, DLY, seeks compatible female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085 ☺

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n' roll, WLTm N/S female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079 ☺

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271 ☺

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013 ☺

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271 ☺

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535 ☺

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship, West Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481

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KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087 ☺

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537 ☺

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SHARON 37yr old size 11/10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351 ☺

KATHY genuine good/young looking lonely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349 ☺

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTm seeks male 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343 ☺

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335 ☺

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BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097 ☺

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913 ☺

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTm female for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201 ☺

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115 ☺

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761 ☺

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531 ☺

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506 ☺

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530 ☺

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405 ☺

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well-built female for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971 ☺

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093 ☺

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621

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PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294 ☺

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BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907 ☺

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

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By DAVE MAIRS

It is billed as "one of the most stunning and important nature reserves in the UK", but it's easy to think you've got the wrong place when you pull in to the car park at Ranscombe Farm.

A stone's throw from urban Strood and crazily close to the tangled collision of the M2, A228, High Speed Rail Link and the Medway Valley line with its trains shrieking what must be the most unnecessarily ear-splitting klaxons on the planet, this is not perhaps the first place you would come to when searching for tranquillity.

A morning's hike later, though, and any doubts about the wonder of this place have long since been dispelled.

Somehow, in the desperately urbanised realm of north-west Kent, the landscape of the North Downs is surviving and, increasingly, thriving.

That it does so is thanks in part to the work of organisations such as Plantlife, a group that, in its own words, "is speaking up for the nation's wild plants".

It is Plantlife's partnership with Medway Council that "is really making this

'To save these plants we need to work out how to work within an economically-farmed landscape'

happen", project manager Richard Moyse told me as we walked through the 620 acres co-owned by the two agencies.

"This" is the long-term protection and enhancement of one of the country's most botanically-rich sites, a venture that dovetails with both providing for visitors and maintaining a working farm.

Innovative conservation is key here and the ambition – "to create the best arable-plant site in Britain in terms of the diversity of species present and the size of their populations" – great.

Farmland flowers have been under the cosh for decades as increasingly-intensive agricultural practice has made it harder for them to find space to exist.

And that is the triumph of Ranscombe – it shows that wildlife conservation can walk hand in hand with commercial farming. These rolling fields and woods are part of a working farm that must turn in a living to its tenant.

The star of the Ranscombe show is the once-common corncockle, pictured, here at its sole remaining site in the UK as a wild species. Its (re)discovery, a few years before Plantlife took on the site, was a surprise and followed deep ploughing carried out to deal with a particularly troublesome weed.

Today, in a good year, there are probably thousands across the entire site.

Ninety-five per cent of the British population of broad-leaved cudweed is



Pictures: PHIL HOUGHTON

A Kentish gem that shows farms can be good for our nature

People and wildlife alike are benefiting on a reserve by the edge of the sprawl

here, while the first national records of two very rare species – meadow clary (discovered in 1699) and rough mallow (1792) – came from this site, where, happily, they still exist.

"To save these plants, we need to know how to work within an economically-farmed landscape," said Richard, pictured above.

Half of Ranscombe comprises woodland, while two fields – Longhoses and Kitchen – are in Environmental Stewardship. These are ploughed twice a

year, or, more usually, 'harrowed and rolled', as this is the more modern farming practice.

They are sown with a cereal such as wheat and barley but, because no fertilisers or herbicides are used on them, the value of the crop is poor – this is where the Government's Environmental Stewardship money comes in to compensate the farmer.

The rest of the site, apart from some field margins, which are managed for the flowers and their associated wildlife,

is farmed conventionally. This does entail the use of fertilisers and herbicides – "it wouldn't be worthwhile if he [the farmer] didn't use them," said Richard.

Although he has only been in his job a little over three years, the area is in Richard's blood. Looking over the sweep of the downs towards the river, he said: "I love this view – I'm a Medway boy. This would all have been cement works along the riverbanks 100 years ago."

Many of those works have since disappeared and if we are indeed in the post-industrial age it's worth remembering that mankind has seen many changes here.

There is evidence of people from 6,000 to 8,000 years ago, while the farm itself was recorded in the 1100s.

Despite the changes, you would recognise the place from the maps that reach back 300 years. There is a long continuity of land use and it is this that makes Ranscombe such a valuable site.

Medway Council had for a long time wanted to establish a country park here and it was given the necessary financial spur courtesy of former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and his focus on the so-called Thames Gateway as a growth area.

Thankfully, this involved more than simply building houses and it was acknowledged that people needed space for recreation and leisure. Accordingly, money came from varying sources – among them both central and local government and Plantlife itself.

The coffers of the Heritage Lottery Fund were also at hand, allowing the purchase in 2010 of the 57-acre Brockles Field and work to make the site more accessible to local people.

Important though Ranscombe Farm is for wildlife, Richard is keen to stress its value to the neighbouring communities. "This is open space for people," he said. "We really want them to enjoy the landscape and see the plants."

There have, of course, been problems to overcome. The issues of the urban fringe have been depressingly evident and just six or seven years ago there were some 100 burnt-out cars dotted around the site.

Early work to improve the general area was carried out through the Cobham-Ashenbank Management Scheme and now there are 10 miles of maintained footpath at Ranscombe alone and the site has secured boundaries. There's also "a good relationship with the local PCSO", said Richard.

So, happy days for everyone. Plantlife holds a range of free public events and open days: schoolchildren come to learn about and hopefully love their natural heritage; a growing band of volunteers – "some of them very skilled people" – help look after the site; and groups from as far afield as Reading and Bradford have visited.

This is the new world of Ranscombe Farm, the largest Plantlife reserve in the country and it's right here in Kent, so remember its name and get to know it. It's a gem.

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Weekender

YOUR WEEKEND

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The poetry of a colourful career

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

SELF-MADE millionaire, biographer to Muhammad Ali, musician with John Lennon and now world-acclaimed poet – Felix Dennis certainly has a story to tell.

The 63-year-old, who made a fortune estimated at £500 million in publishing, will be appearing at Canterbury's Gulbenkian theatre on Friday, June 14, for a live reading of his poetry on his new tour Did I Mention The Free Wine?.

The event is in support of his seventh book Love, Of A Kind.

The founder of men's lifestyle magazine Maxim only took up poetry 11 years ago and he has not looked back since, writing seven books and more than 1,500 poems.

"I used to read poetry but had never thought about writing. One thing led to another and it's taken over my life," he said. "There's been a huge learning process. I came to it really late.

"Poet John Keats said if you haven't written an immortal line of poetry by the age of 25 you shouldn't – well, yah boo sucks to Keats because I didn't until I was 52. So I came into it really late. It must have been building up like an enormous dam because the floodgates opened and I started to write at an astonishing rate.

"I try to write every day for three or four hours, no matter what else is going on and how many deals are going down."

Poetry has become his main focus, while he still heads Dennis Publishing and has started a project to plant a forest in Warwickshire.

"The other parts of my life are my escape," he said. "Planting trees and trying to make money is just escapism. It is hard work writing – blank pages are terrifying things. I have to confront them every day and it doesn't get any easier."

Writing was nothing new for Dennis, though, having written two best-selling biographies, but poetry is more than just writing.

"It was utterly new and bewildering," he said. "I had written a lot – two biographies, and articles, too. In my teens I wrote record reviews.

"I didn't understand the craft, the structure of poetry, the history. I had no clue, but I had to learn all that. It's like becoming a great tennis-player – it's just practice and you have to read other poets. You have to write tons of stuff you're going to rip up. People want to write free verse and are astonished when it's not published."

His first book, A Glass Half Full, was published by Hutchinson in 2001. Critical acclaim quickly followed, with broadcaster Melvyn Bragg flying his opinion in the face of criticism to back Dennis's work on TV's The South Bank Show.

"I was astonished when Melvyn Bragg did a South Bank Show about a multi-millionaire who had become a poet. Bragg was the first to say I don't care if he's rich or behaves badly – I only care about the work. I could not believe it."

It all started a new chapter in a career that had begun in the early 1970s as a street-seller for under-the-counter culture magazine Oz, where he later became co-editor and was embroiled in one of this country's longest-running conspiracy cases, at the Old Bailey in 1971.

It was then that he recorded a single with John

Lennon to raise money for legal fees. He was found guilty, along with two colleagues, but later had his conviction quashed.

He went on to write the biographies of martial-arts legend Bruce Lee and boxer Muhammad Ali: "We knocked on Ali's door in the States, me and co-author Don Atyeo. We said 'Hi, we are your new biographers' and he's looking at us two hippies. He said 'You've got to be kidding'.

"We spent three months with him. We wrote a hell of a book, which has been re-released several times. That was a highlight, as was making a single with John Lennon, and living with him. I've had tons of highlights."

Dennis promises his audience that they will be in for something quite unlike a normal poetry reading.

"We have two specially-made movies to go with the poetry, and some with sound effects and music," he said. "There is also free wine. I have chosen beautiful wine.

"If you're a young man, you're going to get a lot of brownie points from your girlfriend if you go."

The June 14 show starts at 8pm. Tickets are priced at £20, concessions £10. To book, visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian or call 01227 769075.



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Glorious tribute to diva Tina's music

A SHOW inspired by the music of Ike and Tina Turner is to hit the stage at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre.

Soul Sister features all the classic songs, including River Deep Mountain High, Proud Mary, What's Love Got To Do With It and Private Dancer, and follows the passions and heartbreak of Ike and Tina as their careers blossomed and their marriage ended.

Emi Wokoma's performances as diva Tina have attracted huge critical and public acclaim for her vocal and dance talents. Chris Tummings will star as Ike.

Soul Sister is at The Marlowe from Monday to Saturday, June 10-15, with performances at 2.30pm (Thursday and Saturday) and 7.30pm.

Tickets, which are priced from £15 to £36, are available at www.marlowetheatre.com or from the box office on 01227 787787.

Young have special day to learn about war and peace

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THIS summer's War and Peace Revival is putting a special focus on youngsters with a day dedicated to them.

Extra room at the new venue of Folkestone Racecourse means that more exhibitions and demonstrations than ever can be fitted into the annual event, taking place from Wednesday to Sunday, July 17-21.

Youngsters will be able to take advantage of all the event has to offer on 'Schools' Day, Wednesday, July 17, which is designed to educate children from across the county, covering all eras from the First World War to the current conflict in Afghanistan.

Each school will be given a timetable and map, while there is a certificate up for grabs for pupils who manage to visit each of their targeted areas and claim a signature as proof.

The Vintage Village will focus on the civilian element of conflict, focusing on the 1930s to 1960s.

The Home Front area will trans-



EXPERIENCE:

The children will learn about almost a century of war and peace during Schools' Day

port visitors back to the difficult days of the Second World War, when ordinary British people had to deal with huge changes that impacted on their everyday life.

Demonstrations will show people working voluntarily supporting the war effort in areas such as the rescue services, first aid and emergency food workers.

You can find out about the Land Army and how the farms helped feed a nation, too.

There are exhibits on display from St Margaret's Museum, which

has taken on the contents of Winston Churchill's Britain at War Museum in London.

There will also be vintage markets, dance halls, tea rooms and a model marquee to enjoy.

Students are encouraged to dress as an evacuee or something similarly appropriate from one of the periods of conflict.

The day will start at 9.30am and finish at 2.30pm. Entry is free to all schools in Kent. To book, phone 01304 813337; you can also visit www.thewarandpeacerevival.co.uk.

Forth Coming Events

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Additional attractions on the estate for which charges may apply see www.quexpark.co.uk

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YOUR WEEKEND

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or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisureTo be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk**Reality television star
Lucy announces gig**

X FACTOR star Lucy Spraggan has announced a date at Margate's Winter Gardens.

Spraggan, who was also Live & Unsigned runner-up, will play at the venue on Monday, October 21, to coincide with the release of her debut album.

The singer withdrew from the 2012 series of The X Factor after receiving a 'free pass' to week five, having fallen ill in week four. She believed it was unfair on the other contestants.

Having landed several UK Indie Chart hits, including a No 2 album with 2011's Top Room At The Zoo, Spraggan has signed to Colombia and her debut studio album is due for release this year, following forthcoming single Lighthouse.

Tickets, priced at £15, are on sale now. To book, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk or phone 01843 292795/296111.

Phil Cool says farewell

COMEDY legend Phil Cool will be visiting the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club this summer as part of his farewell tour.

Known as the stand-up chameleon, the star of BBC's Cool It and ITV's Cool Head has announced his retirement.

He will perform at the Memorial Theatre in St Peter's Road, Broadstairs, on Saturday, June 8, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £15 for members and £17 for non-members. Seats are bookable in advance on 0845 2626263. A 24-hour booking rule applies to non-members of Sarah Thorne; email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

**Artist offers landscapes
to international audience****By Greg Miles**greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AN artist whose work has been admired as far away as Tokyo is to exhibit his watercolours of the county in Hythe this month.

John Harvey's paintings of the Kent countryside and its flowers and animals will be on show at Hythe Library until Friday, June 28.

Harvey is back in the country after a trip to Japan, where his work was being snapped up by fans who took a shine to his varying depictions of the Garden of England.

The 73-year-old gave up his career at an advertising agency in London three decades ago and took up painting full-time. It is a decision he feels has been vindicated 30 years later.

"I couldn't see how I could make a living with art, but when I was 47 I quit everything and started painting full-time," he said. "It was a risk — everybody thought I was mad. Sometimes you have to do what you want to do."

His trip to Tokyo came about in unusual circumstances, though. With a friend he helps organise trips to the county for Japanese students, and as part of this they would visit his home.

"I got involved and found myself organising hotels and things for them," said Harvey. "As part of the trip he wanted them to see a quaint English home, my house, where they saw all my paintings and bought some."



This led to an invitation to Tokyo earlier this month, where his pictures proved a big draw with the locals.

"I thought I might sell a few. I took more of the pictures of flowers and animals because they are a bit more international," he said. "I did sell a lot of Kent, in particular pictures of rapeseed fields, and quite a few of Chilham square, the quintessential village. I think they're fascinated by it."

The exhibition of his work at Hythe Library in Stade Street is free to visitors and accessible during library opening hours.

Visit www.johnharveyartist.co.uk to find out more about his work.

FAB FOUR

Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Saturday, June 8, 7.30pm
Box office: 01795 471140

Website: www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

The Demonstration: Mind-reading, mind control and prediction from Andrew Hinson, who will seemingly read, manipulate and predict the thoughts of others. Tickets £9 (ages 14+ only).



St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich
Wednesday, June 12, 7.30pm
Phone: 07973 761651 (Dave White)

Website: www.railwayswingband.co.uk

The Railway Swing Band: Concert with guests The Northbourne Park School Community Band to raise funds for the arts centre. Tickets £8 from The Admiral Owen in Sandwich high street.



The Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, June 6, 8.30pm
Phone: 01303 277175 (Beryl Wood)

Website: www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk

The best of British jazz: Every Thursday, Folkestone Jazz Club brings the best sounds in the business to town. Tonight Alex Garnett on sax and Leon Greening on piano star. Tickets £10.



The Astor Theatre, Deal
Saturday, June 8, 7pm doors for 8pm
Phone: 01304 370220

Website: www.theastor.org

Albert Lee: Double Grammy award-winner Lee, unquestionably one of the world's finest guitar-players, returns to Deal with his band Hogan's Heroes. Tickets £18 in advance, £20 on the door.



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YOUR WEEKEND

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Festival sparks an international fire

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FUSE Medway Festival will have a true international flavour when it starts in two weeks, with new artistic director Megan Donnelly at the helm.

Australian Donnelly took over three months ago after responding to an advert on the Arts Council's website and is now just two weeks away from launching the annual outdoor-arts festival in the Medway towns.

She is no stranger to organising such an event, having been a key player in starting up the Sydney fringe and comedy festivals before coming to Britain seven years ago. She is also co-director of Comica: London International Comics Festival. Now living in London, she is hoping that in time the event, which runs from Friday to Sunday, June 14-16, can attract more people from further afield.

"I would like to bring in more visual and public art and to get people to come along who would not normally think of it. I'd also like to see more Londoners come. It's 30 minutes to Rochester to get to a major outdoor venue. You don't get them in the middle of London. You've got Greenwich Festival, but you don't get the big circus."

Being involved in the event is also a chance to work in her grandmother's birthplace.

"My grandmother came to Australia when she was 20," she said. "I tried to find out about her past, but her home had been knocked down. She was very proud of being British."

Having staged big events in the past, Donnelly

Picture: IRVEN LEWIS



DIFFERENT: A ballet with trolleys is one of the many unusual acts that's set to entertain audiences at Fuse Medway Festival

knows how hard it is to attract big acts and was surprised at the quality attracted to Fuse.

"It's got a good reputation. It's really interesting that the regional festivals in England often attract the same artists that the big festivals in Australia do," she said. "It's a pretty amazing. There is so much happening in Medway. When I was working with comics I was really missing live arts. When I saw it I thought it was very exciting, especially as it is in three towns."

Entertainment ranging from street-dancers and circuses to writing workshops and very much

more is on offer through the three days, with headline acts each evening at Rochester Castle.

Friday night sees Chutney In The Street perform dance to a blend of songs and audience participation. On Saturday there is Trolleys – a ballet performed with shopping trolleys. Chutney In The Street again and Mobile Homme, a human-baby mobile suspended 100ft over the audience.

On Sunday La Ballade de Bergerac will wow audiences with their circus with a difference – aerial displays are a big feature.

Visit www.fusefestival.org.uk for details.

Toynbee to talk books

AWARD-WINNING columnist Polly Toynbee will feature at Astor Community Theatre's Talking Books evening.

Born on the Isle of Wight, she was the second daughter of literary critic Philip Toynbee, granddaughter of historian Arnold J Toynbee and great-great-niece of philanthropist and economic historian Arnold Toynbee, after whom Toynbee Hall in east London is named.

Polly Toynbee has been a political and social commentator for The Guardian since 1998 and is one of the UK's most influential columnists.

The talk takes place on Friday, June 14, with doors opening at 7.30pm for 8pm.

Tickets are priced at £15. To book, visit www.theastor.org or phone 01304 370220.



Big band, big evening

MEMBERS of the 144Club are visiting Finchcocks Musical Museum in Goudhurst for a meal and evening concert by Ronnie Scott's big-band star Simon Spillett and his full band.

Doors for the event, on Friday, June 7, open at 7pm, with the main performance at 8.45pm. Tickets are priced at £10 for entry or £25 with meal; visit www.finchcocks.co.uk or phone 01580 211702.

On Wednesday, June 12, the club is at The Roffen in Rochester with Malcolm Earle Smith and his band. Doors open at 7.15pm, with the main performance at 8.15pm; tickets are £13 or £23 with a two-course meal, available from www.144club.co.uk or on 01634 365453.

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A NEW stage show featuring all the hits of the movie Dirty Dancing is heading to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

The show, A Night Of Dirty Dancing which pays tribute to the 1980s film, is at The Orchard Theatre on Friday, June 7, starting at 7.45pm.

It will feature the score from the original film, which includes She's Like The Wind, Big Girls Don't Cry, Hey Baby, Wipeout, Do You Love Me, Be My Baby, Hungry Eyes and the Oscar-winning (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

"Celebrated film Dirty Dancing boasted the greatest movie soundtrack of all time," said show-producer Michael Taylor. "All these hits are superbly performed in this fast-moving, slickly-choreographed theatrical treat."

"The whole world loves Dirty Dancing. It's truly iconic entertainment and our sensational production brings all the hits to life on stage."

Tickets are priced at £22.50. Phone 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or www.easytheatres.com to book.

Take a grand tour of the
world that Dickens knew

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

DICKENS World's new Grand Tour has seen visitor numbers double at the venue since it opened in March.

The Chatham attraction reopened at the end of March, doing away with its boat ride through the Dickensian streets.

In its place is the Grand Tour – an hour-and-a-half guided walk through the Dickensian set by costumed actors playing parts from Charles Dickens's books.

These characters impart their knowledge of life in Dickens's time, explaining how he was inspired to write while living in Medway, with Great Expectations among the many stories written while a resident of Rochester.

At the same time, the venue, which opened in 2007, has slashed its entry price from £13 to £5.50 per person and this has brought the tourists flocking.

"We have had rave reviews on Trip Advisor – they have all been four- to five-star," said marketing manager Sherene Garvin-Mack.

"The negativity we are getting is from people who have been before on the boat ride and have come back not realising it has changed."

"We have had 10,000 people in the first two months since March. This time last year we had maybe half that number. With the new set-up we can do so much more – we are looking to



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Thousands have visited

have Charles Dickens take the tours and have a Victorian Christmas.

"We could not change a lot with the boat ride and we still have the option to bring it back. We are looking at the moment to have some other rides in the courtyard."

Tours must be pre-booked online or by phone. For more information, visit www.dickensworld.co.uk, phone 01634 890421 or email bookings@dickensworld.co.uk. The venue is open seven days a week from 10am to 5.30pm. The last tour is at 3.30pm. Tickets cost £5.50 per person.

FAB FOUR



The Winter Gardens, Margate
Thursday, June 6, 7.30pm
Phone: 01843 292795

Website: www.margatewintergardens.co.uk
Jim Davidson – The Legend Continues: The comedian famed for hosting The Generation Game and Big Break is back with a new stand-up show. Tickets £20.



Kent Life, Sandling
Sat and Sun, June 8-9, 10am-6pm
Phone: 01622 662024

Website: www.kentlife.org.uk

Fun On The Farm: Get stuck into life at the farm and learn how to be a farmer through displays and driving tractors. There are produce stalls and live music as well. Tickets £8.95 (adults).



Kent & East Sussex Railway
Saturday, June 15, 10am-11pm
Phone: 01580 765155

Website: www.ksr.org.uk

CAMRA beer festival: The Campaign for Real Ale is holding a beer festival at K&ES stations, with ranges of ale, cider and perry available, along with Morris dancers and music.



Wye
Saturday to Sunday, June 15-23
Email: wyefood@gmail.com

Website: www.wyefood.org.uk

Wye Food Festival: Enjoy a week-long celebration of local food in the village's pubs and restaurants. New this year are food walks. Times vary throughout the week.



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Check our website for details

For more information please visit our website:
www.rhdr.org.uk T 01797 362353 E info@rhdr.org.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Relaxed setting is a rare treat at this haven for meat-lovers

IT TAKES a brave man to open a new restaurant in a street already packed full of popular eateries, particularly when others who tried such a feat left with their tails between their legs after what seemed like just weeks.

It takes an even braver man to limit his menu primarily to burgers. But Paolo's Kitchen is no fast-food restaurant. Nor is it trying to pretend to be some sort of American diner.

It's a small, smart restaurant, tucked unassumingly among a host of others, and instead of shouting to the masses that it's there, it sits back quietly and lets word of mouth do the work.

Rewind to last year and Paolo's Kitchen had been a different kettle of fish. Located in Minnis Bay, a stone's throw from the beach, it marketed itself as a Mediterranean restaurant with that delightful continental feel.

It was great but unlikely to make much business, particularly through passing trade, tucked away near Birchington, which is more a pensioners' playground than the place for a foodies' revolution.

But now, in the heart of the bustling town of Broadstairs – and with a new menu to boot – this restaurant can truly shine.

Unpretentious, relaxed and with simple, slightly rustic décor, my guest and I were immediately at home. We plonked our bottle of wine

RESTAURANT REVIEW



in a cooler – this place serves its own beer and wine but is also bring-your-own – and pondered the menus, which were handed to us by friendly waiting staff.

As someone who can take or leave meat, I was surprised to find my mouth watering at the sumptuous offers – a Californian chicken burger with bacon, cheese, guacamole and sour cream; a platter of mini burgers from pork to lamb to beef; fajitas; and sizzling plates of steak, chicken or pork with peppercorn or blue-cheese sauce.

It was the latter I plumped for – the steak with

blue-cheese sauce and home-cooked chips. My companion went for the platter of mini burgers, which also came with chips and a salad. We ordered beers to go with our meal.

My dish was beautifully cooked, with creamy, rich sauce and succulent meat. The burger platter – a selection of mini burgers – was as tasty as it was fun, with miniature versions of the burgers on the menu presented on a wooden board. The home-made chips, which came on the side, were also delicious.

The dessert menu, although a touch small, boasted old favourites including sticky-toffee pudding and a selection of ice-cream.

The menu had not offered starters, although there was a list of side-orders such as garlic bread and nachos with which the table next to us had chosen to start, so I felt within my rights to have sticky-toffee pudding, while my guest had coconut ice-cream. Both dishes were light and tasty.

Paolo's Kitchen is a brilliant addition to the thriving Broadstairs restaurant scene. It is relaxed, friendly and has a great menu.

The bill came to £50.

Margaret Hall

■ Paolo's Kitchen
Albion Street,
Broadstairs CT10 1NE

Young chef in final of national competition

A CATERING student from Maidstone has bagged a spot in the final of the Cook It 2013 Guild of Food Writers annual competition.

Troy Gardiner-Playford, who attends the New Line Learning Academy in Loose, has been selected from thousands of entrants to be named one of three finalists in the guild event.

The Year 11 pupil had to create a two-course meal and chose a meal of pork in a creamy cider sauce with Lyonnaise potatoes and mange tout, followed by Bakewell tart with lavender cream.

He said: "I am so interested in food and have the skills to cook nutritional meals from scratch but must continue to practise."

The finals are being held in July.

Try fruits of the forest at food and plant fair

THE Ashdown Forest Tourism Association will be holding its popular annual Forest Food And Plant Festival on Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9.

The free event at Perryhill Orchards and Perryhill Nursery in Hartfield celebrates food and plants from around Ashdown Forest.

There will be free samples of local produce from beer, cheese, chocolate and ice-cream to pies, wines and more.

There will also be a barbecue running all weekend as well as tours and demonstrations around the nursery.

Visit www.perryhillorchards.co.uk for details.

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16+ WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



Sponsored by MidKent College

Pent Valley is embarking on an exciting journey from the level of good to outstanding

Pent Valley Technology College was recently assessed as a 'good' school by Ofsted, the Government inspectorate, and has now, under the leadership of its head, Mario Citro, embarked upon its journey to becoming an 'outstanding' school.

Pent Valley continues year on year to deliver improved academic results both at pre- and post-16 level.

It is an inclusive school where all its employees – both teaching and support staff – have as their unified goal ensuring that all its students achieve their academic, personal and social potential so that they are fully prepared for the next stage of their lives, be that university, further education or employment.

This is delivered under its strap-line 'Achievement for all', which encompasses everything that the school is about.



Pent Valley ensures through its Outreach programme and summer school that there is a smooth transition for its pupils from their primary school into Pent Valley.

As its students mature and progress through the school, the focus is on the core essential subjects and providing them with a personalised experience designed around real life and the world of work.

Ofsted identified that the students' progress accelerates as they move through Pent Valley.

All students have access to the school's high-quality leisure centre. There are also a number of specialised facilities, including a hair-and-beauty salon and a motor mechanics workshop.

Pent Valley students are nurtured by strong community principles of equality, achievement and pride.

Looking for level 3? Then take the North School route and reach your destination in style

THE North School sixth form is a popular route into level 3 and post-16 education for students across Ashford, and staying on to study in the sixth form is the preferred option for our students.

We offer a broad range of high-quality courses, delivered by a strong and experienced team of experts in response to the needs and requests of our students, thereby providing them with the necessary choice and advice to support them with their future vision and ambition.

We utilise our unique land-based facility to offer environmental subjects alongside more traditional A-levels such as English, mathematics, the sciences, business and IT.

'The North School has an outstanding curriculum' – Ofsted 2009.

Sixth-form students benefit from excellent

facilities, including a large library and resource centre, equipped with the latest technology.

In addition, the sixth-form centre provides a study area, relaxation area, kitchen and additional suites to ensure that students can work, research, relax and socialise in pleasant surroundings that are solely for their use.

Our sixth form comprises a responsible community of young people committed to personal improvement and excellence who take leading roles in the wider school and student community.

They value the secure, friendly and supportive atmosphere that the school provides, but don't just take our word on this – visit the North School website, follow the link to the sixth form and see for yourself what our students think about their sixth form.



TheNorthSchool



Pent Valley Technology College
YEAR 6 OPEN Evening
Monday 16th September 2013
18.00 - 21.00



Meet the staff, look around the school and see what the school can offer your child.

Headteacher's welcome at 18.15

There are also open mornings on:
Monday 23rd, 30th September, 7th and 14th October
Tuesday 24th September, 1st, 8th and 15th October
Between 09.30 and 12.30

For further information please contact Mrs Neil Young on
01303 277161 ext 2245.
Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road,
Folkestone, CT19 4ED

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The North School, Essella Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AL

Tel: 01233 614600 . Fax: 01233 612906

E-mail: north-school@north.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.north.kent.sch.uk

16+ WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



Sponsored by MidKent College

MidKent offers crucial second chance in English and maths during this period of change

GCSE students who miss out on achieving at least a grade C in English and Maths will be given a second chance at MidKent College.

From September all 16- to 19-year-olds who enrol on a course at the college will carry on studying the two core subjects. This means that some students will be able to retake their GCSEs, while others will take Functional Skills lessons aimed at improving practical skills in English and maths.

The requirement forms part of the Government's new Study Programme, which is linked to a raising of the participation age for education and training to 17 this year and 18 by 2015.

Project co-ordinator Heather Gray said: "The education system is going through a period of major change at the moment and it is important



young people and their parents know exactly how this will affect them".

The raising of the participation age to 17 does not mean that students have to stay on at school – they can also choose to find employment with training, take up an apprenticeship or continue their full-time education with a local college.

Heather added: "Those young people choosing MidKent College will be able to

continue to study English and maths, alongside their main course, and develop those skills necessary to succeed in the world of work."

Students who enrol on a course at MidKent College will discuss their prior attainment level with their tutors to decide whether GCSEs or Functional Skills lessons will be most suitable.

Call the course information team on 01634 402020 for more information.

Bromley College has huge range of courses... make it your choice and succeed

DID you know that the Government has increased the age to which young people in England must stay in education or training?

Starting this year, Raising the Participation Age (RPA) makes it a legal requirement to remain in some form of learning or training up to 17 years old. From 2015, the age will be raised to 18.

RPA doesn't mean that young people must stay in school – there are lots of choices post-16, including attending a further-education college, participating in apprenticeships, training with an independent provider or training while working or volunteering.

As one of the largest colleges in south-east London, Bromley College offers a huge range of vocational and academic courses across its two modern campuses in Bromley and Orpington.

A great alternative to school, Bromley College

treats young learners as adults, offering a wide range of subjects taught by experienced professionals as well as industry-standard facilities and flexible timetables.

Like the idea of being a hairdresser, beauty therapist, bricklayer or accountant? How about training in childcare or health and social care? Bromley College offers practical, work-related courses in a variety of subjects and industries.

A-levels can help you progress on to higher education. If you didn't get the grades you wanted first time around at school, you can re-sit your A-levels and GCSEs.

The college also offers many apprenticeships, so you can earn while you learn, and higher-education courses, so you can get a degree without leaving home!

Find out more about Bromley College and apply online at www.bromley.ac.uk.

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APPLY NOW

SWITCH TO COLLEGE
YOU CAN LEAVE SCHOOL AT 16+ FREE FOR ALL 16-18 YEAR-OLDS

JOB SKILLS
YOU CAN GET SOME

01634 402020
www.midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College
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There's MORE to Bromley College

- More courses
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16+ WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



Sponsored by MidKent College

Homewood School – where the Pathway is clear to a world of diverse experience

At Homewood School we offer a tremendous variety of courses for study in the sixth form.

Our unique Pathways model, which you can discover in our Sixth Form Brochure, will provide you with the opportunity to follow a personalised route towards your goals regardless of your interests and aspirations.

What the students say:

'Homewood School hasn't simply met my needs, it has exceeded them.'

'The sixth form has encouraged and motivated me to succeed.'

'The school has given me so much confidence and has helped me to make many great friends.'

Whether you intend to follow a degree course at a top university, to further your studies at college or to go into the world of work after sixth form, there will be a suitable Pathway for you.

What the students say:

'Homewood School has helped me to develop academically and to realise many aspirations.'

'The sixth form has taught me to work hard and plan well and the value of self-discipline and teamwork.'

Our sixth form has been praised by successive Ofsted inspectors and students can expect not only a good education but also a rich set of life-



shaping experiences and personal opportunities.

What the head boy and head girl say: 'I am incredibly proud to be part of such a diverse student body. Homewood sixth form is a place that truly makes a difference to students' lives.'

'Come and join us.'

Homewood School's sixth-form open evening is Thursday, November 14, from 5pm-7pm

For further information, telephone 01580 764222 or email info@homewood.kent.sch.uk.

Results are a tell-tale sign of success as North West Kent College proves right option

THE new Government legislation to Raise the Participation Age (RPA) to 18 has led to much confusion among parents and students.

It raises the question as to whether Year 11 school students have to stay on at sixth form or if they can actually move to a college such as North West Kent College.

College is a solid option for young people, especially those who want to gain an education that will prepare them for work, as college courses give a practical industry-based education.

To obtain a clear idea of how well a college performs, look at the results and success of its students. North West Kent College has recently achieved league table results of 12th Best Performing College in England from the Skills Funding Agency. This success was reiterated by last year's 95 per cent pass rate for students.

David Gleed, principal of North West Kent College, said: 'For many students, switching to college at 16 is the right option.'

'Whether you know which career you want to follow and are looking for the qualification that will get you there, or if you're planning to go to university at 18, colleges are likely to have the right course for you.'

The difference between school and college is



what is learnt and how it's learnt. School focuses on academic learning, whereas college will provide an education that is as close to what would be learnt within the industry.

The skills achieved at college are the skills that employers need as students have already gained the practical experience that's needed for the job while at college.

North West Kent College prides itself on the high-quality range of industry-standard learning environments... from a working motor-vehicle garage to hairdressing and beauty salons, a live broadcasting radio station and a theatre.

Many departments work with the community to offer their services and gain industry experience.

Places for courses will be sought after, so get in touch while they remain available. Phone 0800 074 1447 or visit www.nwkcollege.ac.uk if you're interested in applying.



Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre
LEARNING • RESPECT • BELONGING

Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6LT

Mixed Comprehensive Academy 11-18

Specialist Arts and Applied Learning College

Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre invites current Year 11 students and other prospective Sixth Form applicants and their parents to our

6th Form Open Evening

Thursday 14th November 2013, 5pm -7pm



Representatives from all departments will be present to discuss the details of the courses on offer. Options literature, which for Key Stage 5 courses can already be found on the kentchoices4u website, may be obtained on the evening.

All applications for Post 16 students are to be made through the kentchoice4u website.

**For further information telephone: 01580 764222
or email: info@homewood.kent.sch.uk**

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16+ WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



Sponsored by MidKent College

Maximising A-level potential at Rochester Independent College

STUDENTS join RIC to maximise grade potential in the academic A-level subjects demanded by top universities.

Research demonstrates the competitive edge that independent sixth forms can give.

The Russell Group of leading universities reports that private-school students are three times more likely to gain straight As than those at state schools.

While independent schools represent only 7-8 per cent of the school population, just under half of all science A grades come from them.

The Sutton Trust found that private-sector students are four times more likely to apply to a top university than those from further-education colleges.

This year a new Government league table ranks schools on the percentage of students with two As and a B in traditional academic A-levels. Two hundred of the 298 entries in 2012 at RIC were in these 'facilitating' subjects identified by the

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE



Russell Group – maths and further maths, English literature, physics, biology, chemistry, geography, history and languages.

The Russell Group comments: "We welcome the publication of information that will help students make good choices about their place of study post-16."

"All too often students disadvantage themselves by choosing a combination of subjects at A-level which will not equip

them for their preferred university course."

RIC specialises in quality university application advice and a curriculum geared towards entry to elite institutions.

Despite being non-selective, the top five student destinations over the last eight years are Leeds, Nottingham, Sussex, Cambridge and Imperial.

Last year three students won places at one Cambridge college – Trinity.

The monitoring system that sets Earlscliffe students on their way to top universities

EARLSCLIFFE is a private sixth-form college in Folkestone offering traditional A-levels and everything else you would want from independent education – sports, trips to the United Nations in New York among others, volunteering and fund-raising for local charities, international experiences, regular formal dinners with guest speakers and, of course, small classes and intensive teaching.

We prepare our students for entry to the UK's top universities, namely those in the Russell Group and 1994 Group. We offer A-levels in mathematics, further mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, economics, politics, history, geography, business and art.

We teach nine lessons (45 minutes) in each main subject per week, giving our students both a lot of contact time and the benefit of small classes (average class size of six).

A key feature of our academic programme is our monitoring system: TRaC (Test, Rank and Coach), which tests students in each of their subjects every Friday, with results given each Monday morning to students, teachers and parents.

For those who need a little extra help in a specific area, 'coaching' (the C in TRaC) happens after school on Mondays and Tuesdays. All our students



Earlscliffe

also take the Extended Project Qualification.

We offer day, weekly and full boarding places and offer scholarships and bursaries worth up to 100 per cent of fees.

We invite you to come and look around and meet Tim Fish, our Director, to discuss how we can fulfil your academic aims and ambitions.

Phone Tim Fish on 01303 253 951 or email him on timfish@earlscliffe.co.uk.

**ROCHESTER
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE**
A Co-educational Day and Boarding School

**40.3% A*/A
AT A LEVEL**
National average 26.6% 2012

SPECIALIST 6TH FORM STUDY

"The teaching at Rochester is rigorous and tailored to the best possible exam results. It offers a broad education, combining its original focus on getting students into competitive university courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science with an emphasis on the creative arts." **THE INDEPENDENT**

**INTERVIEWING NOW FOR SEPT 2013
YEAR 12 ENTRY YEAR 13 ENTRY RETAKES**

RIC at a glance

Number of students: 280
Aest 70%
International 18%
Rest of UK 12%

Average class size: 6
No school uniform
Accredited by the ISC

No minimum GCSE grade requirements

Day fees 2013-14
Years 7-9 £3150 per term
Years 10-11 £4500 per term
Years 12-13 £5000 per term

College residential services from Maidstone, Bearsted, Medway, Kings Hill, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Otford and Seal. New service from Ashford starts September 2014.

RIC is situated opposite Rochester railway station

www.rochester-college.org 01634 828115
YEAR 7 TO 6TH FORM STAR HILL ROCHESTER ME1 1XJ

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Earlscliffe

Independent A Level College based in Folkestone

A unique college offering:

9 lessons per A level subject per week

TRaC testing every Friday in each subject

Day students welcome

Flexi-boarding available

5 minutes walk from Folkestone railway stations

Bursaries & Scholarships widely available

Earlscliffe prepares students for entry to the UK's top universities

To have your questions answered fully contact:
timfish@earlscliffe.co.uk



www.earlscliffe.co.uk

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Winter Sun

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London Gatwick**
8 days semi-all-inclusive
£699pp
Quote MA11-KOS
8 November, 2013

Leave the grey UK winter behind and come with us to enjoy some winter sun on the island of Madeira which is lapped by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, making it an enchanting year-round holiday destination. In Madeira you'll find pleasant soothing colours with shades of green set against an azure sea – the hallmark of the subtropics.

The winter average temperature is around 17°C and the bay of Funchal - our base for this holiday - is protected by the island's highest peaks and enjoys the best of sunshine.

We stay at the 4-star Hotel Raga, which is idyllically situated on a hillside in the heart of Funchal's renowned Lido area commanding spectacular views from its high vantage point.

Return flights are from Gatwick with 1 checked in bag and 1 carry-on bag included.



INCLUDED: Return flights to Funchal with 1 checked in piece of luggage up to 20 kgs and 1 piece of hand baggage (50 x 40 x 20cm including wheels) • Return airport to hotel transfers • 7 nights sharing a superior room • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners from the

buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch and dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Live entertainment 3 times per week (subject to change) • Use of the hotel gym and outdoor heated pool • Portage in and out

Rhine &
Moselle
River Cruise

**Escorted Rail-Cruise from
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6 days full board
From £659pp
***Sale price from £599pp**
Quote TR9-KOS

25 September, 2013

Come with us on a charming river cruise on the Rhine and Moselle in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Virginia as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) with just one train change en-route.

On board ship it is easy to relax and unwind while some of Germany's most historic and romantic scenery slips quietly by. There will be time for your own sightseeing ashore too, as each day the cruise ship will moor at a different "port". Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast lunch and



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dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel to Cologne • 5 nights full-board cruise on the

MV Virginia sharing a twin outside cabin - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Cup of coffee/tea each morning and afternoon • Captain's dinner • Live music one evening • Transfers abroad



Grease & Saturday
Night Fever
Christmas Party

**Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island**
3 Nights Half Board + £1.50 Bar
£175pp
Quote MR11-KOS
22 to 25 November, 2013

We had a fabulous Christmas Party at Mill Rythe resort on Hayling Island in 2012, so we're doing it all again this year. We've booked the whole resort so we can bring you this great value party break. You'll enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease movie screening and tribute show, Bee Gees & 70s hits with tribute band Staying Alive, and a host of nostalgic and festive fun. Plus there's a £1.50 Bar from 6pm to midnight every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite to ensure everyone has a good time.

INCLUDED: £1.50 Bar from 6pm to Midnight every night – house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation – upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool, sauna



Mamma Mia
& Super 70's
Christmas Party

**Warner Norton Grange
Isle of Wight**
3 Nights Half Board + Free Bar
£219pp
Quote NO11-KOS
29 November to 2 December, 2013

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, an Abba tribute band, comedian Joey Howard plus lots of festive and nostalgic fun. Plus there's a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea and standard coffee • Full Entertainment & Activities programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation • Car ferry crossing worth £45



Business Week

online@www.businessforkent.co.uk

Your business is our business



Nirav and his team home in on victory

BUILDING and housing companies have come together to find the next emerging talent in the world of architecture – and a student group from St Lawrence College in Ramsgate has been outlined as one of the favourites.

Teenager Nirav Patel and his team have reached the final of the Home For Design competition put together by Bloor Homes to design a modern-day house.

The design student is one of six team leaders who will face industry experts at the Roca London Gallery to pitch his ideas and possibly have his design developed.

The business experts judging the event include representatives from LABC, Housebuilder Magazine, Adam Architecture and Bloor Homes.

Adrian Bloor, regional chairman for Bloor Homes, said: "With an ever-increasing demand for housing, a need for advanced environmentally-friendly house-building and cuts in Government spending, it is more important now than ever."

The winning team will be in the running to win £5,000.

Boost for younger business hopefuls

NETWORKING organisation, The Wealden Business Group (WBG), has selected the Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs as its charity of the year.

The Tenterden-based group meets weekly to help its members maximise business opportunities and exchange information, sales leads and referrals.

Its social calendar includes charity fundraising events and in the past two years it has raised almost £10,000 for good causes in Kent.

This year it intends to help the Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs, which gives young people aged between 18 and 30 tailored support through business mentoring, specialist enterprise training and access to finance through the Start Up Loans initiative.

WBG is a delivery partner for the loans initiative.

Chairman David Meredith: "We believe we can be of real help to young people starting their careers and wanted to offer practical support to those who will own and manage the businesses of tomorrow."

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on 01303 817000, or alternatively email your story to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Serious repercussions of cyber crime and fraud in the world of small firms

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SMALL firms are being hit for millions due to the rise in cyber crime, according to the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

In a new report, Cyber Security And Fraud: The Impact On Small Businesses, produced by the FSB in conjunction with the Home Office, it is estimated that nationally the cost to the bottom line is some £785 million.

Cyber crime relates to anything from fraud and online crime to virus attacks.

The report shows that 41 per cent of FSB members have been a victim of cyber crime in the last 12 months, putting the average cost at some £4,000 per business.

About three in 10 members have been a victim of fraud, typically by a customer or client (13 per cent) or through 'card not present' fraud (10 per cent).

Roger House, FSB chairman in Kent and Medway, said: "Cyber crime poses a real and growing threat for Kent's small firms and it isn't something that should be ignored."

"Many businesses will be taking steps to protect themselves, but the cost of crime can act as a barrier to growth."

"For example, many businesses will not embrace new technology as they fear the repercussions and do not believe they will get adequate protection from crime."

"While we want to see clear action from the Government and the wider public sector, there are clear actions that businesses can take to help themselves."

The most common threat to businesses is virus infections, which 20 per cent of respondents said they had fallen victim to. Eight per cent have

TOP TEN TIPS



- 1 Implement a combination of security protection solutions (anti-virus, anti-spam, firewall(s))
- 2 Carry out regular security updates on all software and devices
- 3 Implement a resilient password policy (min eight characters, change regularly)
- 4 Secure your wireless network
- 5 Implement clear and concise procedures for email, internet and mobile devices
- 6 Train staff in good security practices and consider employee background checks
- 7 Implement and test back-up plans, information disposal and disaster-recovery procedures
- 8 Carry out regular security risk assessments to identify important information and systems
- 9 Carry out regular security-testing on the business website
- 10 Check provider credentials and contracts when using cloud services

been a victim of hacking and 5 per cent suffered security breaches.

The FSB is concerned that the cost to the wider economy could be even greater as small firms

refuse to trade online, believing the security framework does not give them adequate protection.

The report finds that almost 20 per cent of members have not taken any steps to protect themselves from a cyber crime.

However, 36 per cent of respondents say they regularly install security patches to protect themselves from fraud and almost six in 10 members regularly update their virus-scanning software to minimise exposure to online crime.

The FSB has issued a list of top tips to ensure firms stay safe online.

Mr House said: "I encourage all small firms in Kent and Medway to look at the 10 top tips we have developed to make sure they are doing all they can."

"We want to see the Government look at how it can simplify and streamline its guidance targeted specifically at small firms and make sure there is the capacity for businesses to report when they have been a victim of fraud or online crime."

James Brokenshire, MP parliamentary under secretary for security at the Home Office, said: "Having personally been involved in the cyber-security debate for several years now, I am pleased the Home Office is working with the FSB to highlight the current experiences of small businesses."

"Cyber security is a crucial part of the Government's National Cyber Security Strategy and we need to make sure all businesses, large and small, are engaged in implementing appropriate prevention measures in their business."

"This report will help give a greater understanding of how online security and fraud issues affect small businesses, giving guidance as well as valuable top tips to protect their business."

Company fined after employee fall exposes flaws in safety

WAREHOUSE and distribution chain Palmer & Harvey McLane has been prosecuted after a member of staff fell from the back of a lorry at its depot in Aylesford and was left unable to work for 11 months.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council prosecuted the chain for health and safety failings under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court following an accident involving an employee on November 2, 2011, at the depot on the Quarry Wood industrial estate in Mills Road.

The employee fell about three to four feet from the tail-lift of a lorry while involved in a cross-loading operation.

This took place over the tail-lifts of two vehicles that were backed up, with the lifts effectively being used as a bridge to move stock from one vehicle to the other.

The worker fell from the tail-lift and suffered a fractured hip. He has since been unable to return to the job and been released from employment.

The company had not carried out suitable risk assessments.

Stuart Ponting, of DLA Piper,

representing Palmer & Harvey McLane, entered a guilty plea on behalf of the company and apologised for the accident. He said it was an oversight on the part of the company and was regrettable.

The practice of cross-loading had been prohibited by the company but there was miscommunication of the policy at a local level.

Harry Teacher, chairman of the bench, handed down a fine of £7,500, which was reduced to £5,000 because of the timely guilty plea by the company.

Mr Teacher said that, although there was no intent by the

company to cause accident or injury, the company did have a previous safety conviction that he had taken into account.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council was awarded full costs of £2,441 and the company required to pay a victim surcharge of £15.

Owen Baldock, Tonbridge and Malling cabinet member for environmental health, said: "This could have been so easily avoided by carrying out a risk assessment."

"Businesses should always firstly consider if they can avoid working at height and then adopt working practices to prevent or reduce risk."

Business Week

Training, courses and careers

Multi-million boost from European fund for college in consortium



FUNDING: Cash to boost training

EAST Kent College has secured £3.2 million from the European Social Fund to develop measures encouraging people already in employment to improve their skills.

The money will be used to deliver a range of free training and support that will help employers in Thanet and across the wider South East.

Employees working for companies that employ fewer than 250 staff will be

the main beneficiaries, and the training will be targeted particularly at young adults aged 19 and over.

Lucy McLeod, director of partnerships at East Kent College, which is part of a training consortium, said: "The concern is that currently too many workers lack skills at the right level to respond to anticipated labour market changes."

"This funding offers an exciting opportunity to address this problem."

Construction the topic of the day at special event

K COLLEGE in Folkestone is hosting a special construction event to showcase the skills of its students.

The Ultimate Construction Trade Day on Monday, June 3, will also highlight the partnership between the college and both local and national employers in the construction industry.

Trade partners will be among those taking part on the day. It will take place on the Shorncliffe Road campus from 9.30am-4pm.

Teaching qualification new addition at college

TRAINEE teachers will be able to study for their PGCE qualification at MidKent College from September. It is offered in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University.

Stephen Batchelor, director of higher education, said: "We are particularly keen to attract graduates interested in teaching English and maths."

Visit the Medway Campus on Tuesday, June 4, from 5.30pm-7.30pm or visit www.midkent.ac.uk.



PREPARED: It is hoped the University Technical College in Medway will ease concerns raised in survey

Manufacturers fear for next generation's skills

ALMOST 40 per cent of manufacturing firms say apprentices, graduates and new recruits don't have the work ethic to succeed in industry, according to a poll by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

In a survey of 1,000 British manufacturers – part of the Institution's Manufacturing A Successful Economy 2013 report – manufacturers also said that as many as 57 per cent of apprentices, graduates and new recruits lacked practical skills, while 42 per cent said they lacked communication skills.

Some 45 per cent of the manufacturers polled said that design skills posed an issue with young recruits, while 36 per cent said good maths and science was the problem.

The poll reveals that manufacturing firms are still finding it hard to recruit at all levels despite high unemployment figures.

Of the manufacturers polled, 60 per cent said that they were finding it difficult to recruit design engineers, 39 per cent said they had difficulty recruiting people with skills in production and 36 per cent said they were struggling to find new product specialists.

Philippa Oldham, head of manufacturing at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, said: "Having a good work ethic along with good skills in maths and science is fundamental to success in manufacturing, so it is hugely concerning that so many manufacturers have highlighted this as an issue."

"UK manufacturers are nervous, as these fig-

ures clearly show. The UK remains in the economic doldrums and has seen next to no growth since our 2012 survey.

"Manufacturing and engineering remains the best way to help create and build a stronger economic model for the UK over the coming decades.

"These survey results give a real warning to the UK. If we are to be internationally competitive and help rebalance our economy, we need manufacturers to be producing products for new markets and to increase our exports to developing nations."

The good news, however, is that Kent is ready to embrace the opportunities apparently highlighted in this survey.

The imminent opening of the University Technical College in Medway, which will form part of the secondary-school mix in the area, should deliver skills vital to the next generation of engineers.

The UTC will offer 14- to 18-year-olds the opportunity to take a highly-regarded, full-time, technically-oriented course of study.

Professor Alan Reed, director of regional development at the University of Greenwich and chair of the Medway UTC Partnership, said: "This college will provide a third option to secondary education, as well as a lasting legacy to Medway and the wider sub-region."

The Manufacturing A Successful Economy report is an annual barometer of the Government's performance and the health of the sector.

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Uni's law clinic in the frame for top award

The University of Kent's student and lecturer-run law clinic has been short-listed for an annual award.

The Kent Law Clinic, part of the university's law school, has been short-listed in the 2013 The Lawyer Awards, an event staged by one of the legal profession's leading journals.

It is in the running for ethical initiative of the year in recognition of its work on immigration and asylum cases

as public legal aid has been withdrawn.

It is a third short-listing in the last four years for the clinic, which is the only university-based legal service to feature in this year's awards lists.

Professor John Fitzpatrick, director of the Kent Law Clinic, said: "It's a great achievement to be short-listed once again in these prestigious awards."

"We have a specialist solicitor working in this field

based at the clinic and liaise with a number of local organisations to review cases and represent refugees and asylum-seekers. Our students work alongside our clinic lawyers to represent clients."

The Lawyer Awards celebrate excellence in the profession across private practice, the public sector, commerce, industry and the Bar. The winners will be unveiled on Tuesday, June 25.

Rise of the internet shopper spells high street disaster, warns report

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HIGH streets in the South East could see 13 per cent of their shops close in the next five years due to the boom in online shopping, according to research.

A report by the Centre for Retail Research worryingly predicts that more than 5,000 shops are expected to close their doors as a result of an increased number of people shopping online in the region.

The Retail Futures 2018 document says nationwide total numbers will drop by 22 per cent.

A spokesman for the retail watchdog blamed the rise in online shopping and shoppers shunning the high street.

"In spite of the Portas Pilot, the high street will continue to suffer," he said.

"Retailing and retailers will either make clear strategic decisions that permit online retail to coexist with other retail channels in a multi-channel world, allowing bricks and mortar retailers to transform themselves, or, by avoiding making these decisions, multiple retailers will disappear or be so mortally wounded that a large minority of business categories become dominated purely by online retailers."

However, the report admitted that the picture varied across the country.

Just last week, the Federation of Small Businesses reported an optimistic outlook for the year ahead, with its Spring Barometer 2013 predicting that one in three small firms would see an improvement this year.

One town slowly making progress is Margate.

A town encapsulating many of the problems facing today's retail centres, it was hit hard by the creation of Westwood Cross out-of-town shopping centre and internet retail, with many big names deserting the town's high street.



GHOST TOWN: Centre for Retail Research says changes in shopping habits will hit the high street hard

But things are looking up. Selected as part of the Government-backed Portas Pilot project in which successful towns would receive £100,000, it was hoped the scheme would breathe new life into the ailing seaside resort.

It seems, however, the town has progressed on its own, boasting 12 new retail tenants despite not having dipped into any Portas cash as yet.

Overall in the UK, however, the picture remains bleak on our high streets.

The Centre for Retail Research said: "High streets are an essential part of town centres, creating employment and vitality; the best of them bring tourists and shoppers in – developing services, leisure and entertainment markets as

well as retailing. Retail Futures 2018 argues that high streets are threatened by the current changes in retail structures and shows that town centres will experience a rapid decline as a result of changing retail patterns and need to shrink to survive.

"Some smaller and less successful secondary and tertiary sites may disappear almost completely."

The report recommended a multi-million-pound cash injection nationwide to start developing problem town centres as well as reducing shop rents.

"Action now will prevent the transformation of retailing from becoming a long-term crisis for property markets and town centres," it stated.

Work surges ahead at Eastern Docks in traffic scheme that 'will transform port'

HEALTHY progress is being made on a traffic-flow scheme aimed at transforming the Port of Dover.

The multi-million-pound Traffic Management Improvement (TMI) project at the Eastern Docks forms part of work aimed at ensuring future high levels of customer service.

Demolition work is well under way, with port chiefs reporting good progress.

It comes in the year that the port – which handles the equivalent of 160km of trucks a day – celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Chief operating officer Tim Waggott said: "The Eastern Docks has served the nation for 60 years, evolving into the world-class port business we see today."

"Throughout that time, there

has been significant investment in order that the port keeps pace with the demands placed upon it as an international gateway.

"Today, this is even more the case as we oversee a comprehensive investment programme totalling £85 million that will transform our port and the levels of customer service we can offer."

Mr Waggott said it was vital the important and high-intensity 24/7 operation at the port was not adversely affected by the work being undertaken, which is expected to take several years.

He said: "We are delighted with the progress being made, and in particular the way in which we are constantly refining and improving how we deliver TMI and reducing



CRACKED UP: Port of Dover is embarking on £85m plan to improve services

the impact on our customers.

"Once complete, this project will greatly benefit our port, our customers and our community."

The TMI will improve the traffic flow of vehicles using the port and

create additional capacity, subsequently reducing congestion on the road network outside the docks.

It is expected to be completed by 2015.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Equity boost in store for house-builders

MORE than 75 per cent of house-builders are expecting a rise in the availability of private equity in order to fund building programmes over the next year – but a lack of funding remains the key problems facing the industry.

They were among the key findings in Knight Frank's annual report on the new-build housing sector, following interviews with executives from more than 100 builders and developers.

Lauren discovers key role at Sandwich site

LAUREN Moore has joined the team behind Sandwich's Discovery Park, tasked with providing support services for new and existing tenants.

As facilities co-ordinator, she is described as being the park's front-of-house adviser, acting as first point of contact for tenants. The 25-year-old from Broadstairs will coordinate information to businesses on the site.

Bluewater expansion leaves council fuming

BLUEWATER bosses have been given the green light to expand – but not without a number of objections from a neighbouring council, which says it could undermine its own retail proposals.

Dartford Borough Council passed the plans, but neighbouring Gravesham was left fuming amid fears it would have a negative impact on its Heritage Quarter, with retailers opting instead to move to Bluewater.

Lighting up to expand into European market

DARTFORD-based LED lighting systems specialist 8point3 will join Kent County Council and the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce at an international exhibition this week.

Running from Tuesday to Thursday, June 4-6, it will join county business chiefs in attending Environord, an environment solutions exhibitions held annually in Lille.

Traffic scheme on the right road, says port

PORT of Dover chiefs say work on its multi-million-pound traffic management improvement scheme in the harbour complex is making "good progress", with work now well under way.

Dover Harbour Board chief operating officer Tim Waggott said: "Once complete, this project will greatly benefit our port, our customers and our community."

It is part of £85 million of improvements.

FCUK opens doors on designer outlet store

RETAIL giant French Connection has become the latest brand to open an outlet at Ashford's designer outlet complex.

The opening of the store at McArthurGlen has created eight jobs.

Centre manager David Maddison said: "French Connection is a fantastic addition to the centre and further enhances the fashion offer for our customers."



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MOTERING NEWS

- Two Brits to headline at free motor show
- Peugeot still wooing the company-car-users
- Giulietta releases its latest collection for Alfa



It's easy to raise the roof with Citroën's DS3 cabrio



Driving

drive24.co.uk

By **Steve Loader**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE were no prizes for guessing what Lexus had in its sights with the 1999 launch of the IS. The clues were: smooth straight-six engine, rear-wheel-drive for balanced handling, sharp styling and quality engineering... all attributes that had taken the BMW 3 Series to the top of the compact executive-car segment.

The Lexus also offered extraordinary value for money, with every add-on you could reasonably imagine, even on the entry model. The interior also oozed quality and, in an effort to match the 3 Series dashboard – literally driver-orientated – it included an instrument binnacle that echoed a trendy chronograph watch.

And it built a reputation for reliability and dealer service that helped Lexus dominate customer satisfaction surveys – the brand has once more been named top manufacturer 2013 in the Auto Express Driver Power survey.

But just as the IS arrived, demand in its sector began to be dominated by diesels and the first-generation car had none to offer.

The second-generation model arrived in 2005 to put this omission right, but the IS has played catch-up ever since, never quite achieving the company-car tax savings of the competition.

Lexus – Toyota's luxury arm – has a trick up its sleeve, though, with the third-generation IS (from £26,495) arriving in July and tipped to be a more credible threat to BMW and the other German class leaders.

And that trick is a 2.5-litre petrol-electric hybrid powertrain option (from £29,495) that Lexus says will offer ownership advantages unmatched by any 2.0-litre diesel equivalents in the premium saloon market, thanks to low maintenance and running costs, good residual or second-hand value forecasts and tax benefits from its efficient full hybrid powertrain.

This version offers an official combined cycle figure of 65.7mpg, plus road-tax-exempt 99gm/km CO2 emissions in entry-level SE trim; even the flagship Luxury-grade hybrid model emits just 109gm, which escapes road tax in year one and incurs just £20 a year thereafter.

As ever from Lexus, standard equipment is also generous – especially when weighed against key German rivals – and includes alloys, Drive Mode Select (Normal, Eco and Sport, with electric-only mode, too, on hybrid versions), cruise-control, smart entry and start system, dual-zone climate control, power-fold heated door mirrors, eight airbags, DAB radio sound system and Bluetooth.

It's also more eye-catching than its predecessor; a wider stance gives a bolder and sportier look, complementing the new Lexus corporate front end while also delivering tangible benefits to the car's on-road balance and handling – F Sport (from £30,495) performance models are also in the line-up.

The newcomer has a longer wheelbase, too, delivering a bigger cabin with more rear legroom and a bigger boot.



LEXUS IS

Price:
from £26,495

Driving appeal:
not yet driven

Image:
★★★★★

Space:
★★★★

Value:
★★★★★

Running costs:
★★★★

Reliability:
★★★★★

How green?:
★★★★

Best rival:
BMW 3 Series

New Lexus IS out to tax rivals



DRIVEN TO IMPRESS:
The latest version of the Lexus IS comes with a petrol-electric hybrid powertrain option that's sure to appeal to those looking to save a few pounds

///

DON'T LIKE

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NOT SURE

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REALLY LIKE

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... the lack of a diesel even if the hybrid system works well. It took time for diehards to love diesel, so some will resist hybrid technology, too.

... sales will catch the 3 Series, or even the A4 and C-Class soon, but the hybrid's low emissions are a big tax incentive for company-car-users.

... the wider and more aggressive stance. We'll have a full verdict from behind the wheel soon, but it looks good for this latest 3 Series-basher.



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New IS Series Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 22.8 (12.4) - 64.2 (4.4), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 62.8 (4.5), Combined 30.7 (9.2) - 65.7 (4.3). CO₂ Emissions 213 g/km - 99 g/km

MOTORING

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Citroën's DS3 star polished by Cabrio

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CITROËN is enjoying a wonderful renaissance in the UK with a mixture of its traditional flair and modern market nous.

This is epitomised by the sharply-styled DS3 supermini, which revived the prestige and up-market ambience of the DS line-up of the 1950s-70s and has spearheaded a sales drive that saw the French marque boost volumes by 15 per cent early this year – DS3 sales alone rose 42 per cent.

The DS3 has also just been ranked Best Supermini in the 2013 What Car? JD Power survey with an 82.2 per cent satisfaction score – the industry average was 77.6 per cent – and maximum five-star rating by its owners for performance, service and running costs.

The same survey also praised Citroën's dealer network for its "clean facilities and professionalism" and DS3-owners also claimed the lowest fuel costs and service repair bills in the segment.

The warm feeling should now climb a few degrees more – hopefully taking unseasonably cool spring weather with it, too – after the timely arrival of the elegant DS3 Cabrio spin-off.

Like one of its rivals, the Fiat 500C, it isn't a true convertible, because the roof only rolls back electrically rather than folding fully, but this has several positives.

Firstly, without needing substantial and weighty re-engineering and strengthening, the cabrio retains most of the verve, practicality and style of its hatchback sister: the trademark centre pillar is retained and, without the need to retract a full fabric roof, boot space is not compromised much – it's the biggest in its class.

It also retains decent cabin space, allowing it to be the sector's only five-seater convertible, a marked contrast to the 500C and another key rival, the well-established Mini Convertible – both confirmed four-seaters. To be honest, though, it would be pretty cramped for three across the back in the Citroën, but that won't

CITROËN DSPORT THP 155 CABRIO: £19,675



FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Mini Convertible
Kent dealers:	
Wilmoths	01233 640100
Ashford	01303 245588
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RAISE THE ROOF: With its roll-back capability being good to up to 75mph, the DS3 Cabrio is one to watch

matter much for the cabrio's youthful target market – 80 per cent being female.

The second big bonus from the roll-back roof is that its aerodynamic advantages over a normal convertible roof mean it can be opened and closed at speed – up to 75mph, compared with the 500C's 37mph and Mini's 20mph limit.

And the cabin is a refined place to be if you want to drive open-top. On the other hand, you can get as close as you want to the full convertible wind-in-the-hair experience by simply opening the windows.

The third key issue is that the DS3 Cabrio is just 25 kilos heavier than its sister, with similar rigidity, thereby causing very little harm to the pleasant driving dynamics of the car.

It remains a good blend of responsiveness, with stiffness in cornering yet without a jarring ride.

As a package, it's a lot better-looking and more user-friendly than Citroën's previous effort at

this level, the C3 Pluriel (2003-10), which just accentuated an eccentric rather than the pleasantly individual image that suits the brand best.

Of course there are small compromises even with its more endearing successor: the DS3 Cabrio boot-opening is awkward and vision via the rear-view mirror is poor with roof up or down.

But the smart upmarket DS dashboard, fixtures and fittings, and seating of the hatchback car, are retained, plus the high level of sharp-suited customisation options beyond what is a generous spec across three manual-gearbox petrol-engine powertrain/trim options.

These start at a not-unreasonable £15,045 for the 82bhp 1.2-litre DSign VTi, though its 0-62mph in 14.4 seconds is too leisurely for many would-be buyers. The £17,430 120bhp DStyle and £19,675 155bhp DSPort flagship are better bets.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Brits headline at Motorexpo

TWO of Britain's hottest motoring properties star at London Motorexpo (Monday to Sunday, June 10-16) – said to be the world's biggest free-to-visit motoring event.

They are the Jaguar F-Type, pictured, and second-generation Range Rover Sport, joined by everything from superminis to supercars – some available to drive – on the Motorexpo site at Canary Wharf business and leisure district.



508 plus more from Peugeot

PEUGEOT has enhanced its stylish company-car user-chooser star, the 508 saloon and SW (estate) while keeping prices (now from £19,055) broadly in line with outgoing versions in a highly-competitive UK motor sector.

Most notably, sat-nav is now standard on all but the entry-level 'Access' models, though even this version still gets an alloys upgrade and Bluetooth connectivity.



Alfa's Giulietta 'Collezione'

ALFA Romeo has launched a Collezione series (from £18,265) for its Giulietta sporting family hatch.

It includes body and interior styling tweaks and a contrast roof, complementing three signature Alfa colours: black, red and white.

Added to this are 17-inch titanium-finish alloys, darkened headlight surrounds and chrome door handles.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Offers are available for registrations between 03.04.13 and 01.07.13. Subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded: cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Swappage discount only applies when trading in car 6 years or older with a valid MOT Certificate against a new Zafira or Antara.



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EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AT PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

We have recently been rated as GOOD by Ofsted and are currently looking to recruit to the following roles:

- Childcare Instructor (23rd June 2013)
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- Learning Coach (23rd June 2013)
- Science Teacher (30th June 2013)
- Social Worker (23rd June 2013)

Detailed information is available from our website or by contacting Dan Jones.

Tel: **01303 277161**

Email: **martin.jones@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk**

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure (DBS). This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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FULL TIME PASTRY CHEF

Rhokett is one of the UK's premium dessert manufacturers, established over the last 10 years by the inspiration and driving force of Michelin Star chef Gary Rhodes & Martin Dockett. Our ever expanding, top quality client base demand the very best in hand made desserts, patisserie, ice creams, sorbets and other specialities.

The Chef Patisseries we are looking for will have the skill and passion for creating top quality products for the highest profile clients nationwide.

WE OFFER: outstanding culinary conditions in our facilities in Cranbrook and new factory in Hawkhurst, both in Kent. Plus the very best for your professional development, excellent salary and a pleasant working environment.

WE ASK FOR:

- a positive attitude
- the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- for you to have City & Guilds (706/3) / NVQ up to level 3 / 4 patisserie
- practical experience in patisserie from within a 5* hotel / restaurant environment

Please apply in writing, enclosing your CV to Gail Bartlett (HR Manager), Rhokett Limited, Unit 7 Courtlands Farm, Turnden Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2QL, or email to gbartlett@rhokett.co.uk with Pastry Chef in the subject line. (No agencies please)

NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PASTRY CHEF

Rhokett is one of the UK's leading premium dessert manufacturers, established over the last 12 years by the driving force of Michelin Star chef Gary Rhodes and Martin Dockett. Our ever expanding, top quality client base demands the very best in hand made desserts, patisserie, ice creams, sorbets and other bespoke specialities.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate a clear passion, skill and flair in patisserie in order to create top quality bespoke products for high profile clients nationwide under the guidance of our Product Development Manager. You will be challenged in all aspects of product development.

We offer support for professional development, a pleasant working environment and competitive salary.

You will need to have an ability to work to tight timescales without compromising standards.

Ideally you will have:

- practical experience in patisserie from within a 5* hotel/ restaurant environment.
- Level 3/4 NVQ / 706/3. Patisserie or equivalent.

Please apply in writing, enclosing your CV to Richard Bracking (New Product Development Manager) and Gail Bartlett (HR Manager), Rhokett Limited, Unit 7 Courtlands Farm, Turnden Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2QL, or email to npd@rhokett.co.uk and gbartlett@rhokett.co.uk with NPD Pastry Chef in the subject line. (No agencies please).



Who we are

A leader in global fruit marketing and provider of supply chain service solutions

Passion is a word Capespan understands well. We're passionate about service. We're passionately committed to our producer and business partners. And we're absolutely passionate about delivery. After all, Capespan is an international leader in delivering dew-fresh, world-class product and service solutions to global fruit trading partners 365 days a year.

Mindful of its important role, Capespan grows unabated, continuing to strengthen and further mature its position by evolving in line with global trends. By guaranteeing our producers top-level technical support and ensuring that business partner requirements are met and often exceeded, Capespan continually affirms its position as supplier of choice.

We offer the spice of life - an astounding variety of produce. About 60 million cartons of product are delivered annually in 66 countries on six continents to our business partners, including the top 30 global retailers. Thus we enable more than 1 300 producers to fulfil their global supply objectives.

New commercial varieties are developed in conjunction with producers and international business partners. This comprehensive product development initiative both improves sought-after ranges and introduces exciting new cultivars.

Finally, providing clockwork delivery of nature's choicest bounty throughout the year is the clout in our service, because Capespan delivers.

More news about our business, you can find on our website: www.capespan.com

For our UK office, based in Maidstone we are currently looking for an:

Operations administrative assistant

Responsible for stock, order processing and administration for fresh produce from source through to customer delivery point.

Responsibilities are Provide administration support for the business based at one of our external sites to work closely with the sales, procurement, operations and quality team to provide all admin support and data capture. Stock Management, works order processing, KPI reporting are all pivotal functions of this role.

Essential Skills-

- Highly numerate with a good attention to detail
- Effective communicator, written or verbal
- Excels and thinks clearly under pressure
- Good relationship builder who can be trusted

Essential Characteristics-

- Enjoys working with numbers, systems and calculations
- Passionate, focused and determined
- Outgoing personality, enthusiastic and a team player
- Personable, understanding and analytical

The Operations administrative assistant works under the direct supervision of the Systems & Compliance manager.

If you are interested in this vacancy, please send your application letter and CV to Cindy De Bleu at cindy.debleu@capespan.eu

Baileys Nissan - Sales Executive - Trainee Sales Executive Canterbury, Kent

Due to continued sales growth and our newly extended show-room, we have vacancies for an additional Sales Executive and a Trainee Sales Executive.

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www.baileys-nissan.co.uk



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that The County Hotel Canterbury Ltd of 4 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HA has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence as follows: The provision every day of Films from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Live music from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Recorded music from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Performances of dance from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Late night refreshment from 23:00 to 02:00hrs, Supply of alcohol from 08:00 to 02:00hrs. Hours of opening 08:00 to 02:30hrs every day. On New Year's Eve all activities to continue from the end of Permitted Hours until the beginning of Permitted Hours on New Year's Day and on the morning of the day when Summer Time begins one extra hour on all regulated activities and hours of opening. The above for the premises 'Old Brewery Tavern' situated at Stour Street, Canterbury. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 25/06/2013. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that its identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION OF HENLEY'S JETTY

Notice is hereby given that Homes and Communities Agency has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake Demolition of Henley's Jetty. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Civic Centre, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU**. Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.marinemangement.org.uk/publicregister. Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to DEE.ALLEN@marinemangement.org.uk within 28 days of this publication, quoting reference **MLA/2013/00188**. The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISPOSITION The Royal British Legion Registered charity no. 219279

Section 121 of the Charities Act 2011 Notice of proposed disposition of charity land

Former Royal British Legion Headquarters, Knowsley Way, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9JJ

The Royal British Legion gives notice that it proposes to dispose of land at Former Royal British Legion Headquarters, Knowsley Way, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9JJ held by it as trustee.

It is proposed that the disposal will be by way of a lease to Trustees for Hildenborough Ex Services Club.

The Royal British Legion invites representations concerning the proposed disposal. Representations about this proposal should be sent in writing to: David Arnold c/o The Royal British Legion, 199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA. The Royal British Legion will consider representations received within one month of the date of this Notice.

Date: 31st May 2013

To advertise in this section
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PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0474/SH - Flat 1 3 Grimston Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2QE - Felling of a conifer tree situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of a replacement fruit tree.

Y13/0489/SH - 19 Sycamore Gardens Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LA - Erection of a two storey rear extension, following demolition of existing utility room.

Y13/0480/SH+ - Springfield Dental Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LH - Conservation Area Consent for demolition of existing building.

Y13/0414/SH - The Folkestone School For Girls Cooling Lane Folkestone Kent CT20 3RB - Installation of 3 Replacement tripods supporting antennae to roof of main school building (56 day notification)

Y13/0468/SH - Folkestone West Railway Station Shorncliffe Road Folkestone Kent CT20 3PA - Change of use from selling of motor vehicles to creation of 201 station car parking spaces, 3 coach spaces and associated traffic lanes and turning circle.

Y13/0431/SH - Sea Lady Vicarage Road Sandgate Kent CT20 3AA - Change of use and conversion from two to three self contained flats together with works to create a larger parking area following demolition of the existing garage and other external alterations - Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission Y12/1085/SH to allow a change to the proposed parking area.

Y13/0316/SH - Coach House The Street Lympne Hythe Kent - Erection of a detached car port

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/01351/HOUSE **Fosters Farm Hayesden Lane, Bidborough**
- Removal of existing conservatory; Construction of timber and double glazed single-storey conservatory (LB)

13/01352/LBC **Fosters Farm Hayesden Lane, Bidborough**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of existing conservatory; Construction of timber and double glazed single-storey conservatory (LB)

13/00480/LBC **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc Lloyds Bank House, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: 1 no.internally illuminated fascia sign, 1 no. internally illuminated projecting sign, 6 no. internally illuminated other signs, 6 no. non-illuminated other signs (LB)

13/01319/LBC **Cobblers Cottage Angley Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Replace existing softwood white painted timber framed single glazed windows with replacement softwood white painted timber framed double glazed windows (LB)

13/01373/LBC **Trinity Theatre & Arts Association Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of bar and kitchen servery from Theatre Foyer; Removal of rear kitchen wall and pier; Lowering of floor levels in rear kitchen store areas; Construction of part retaining wall to rear of new bar area; Replacement of structural support to raking auditorium with new raking steel beam and post; Relocation of kitchen to newly formed lower floor area; Extension of bar and counter to full width of raking floor above (original nave) (LB)

13/01380/FUL **Save Centre 28 Grosvenor Road, Culverden**
- Change of use from A1 (Retail) to mixed use A3 (Cafe)/A4 (Pub) (CA)

13/01284/FUL **Great Hungerden Farm Green Lane, Frittenden**
- Conversion of bullock lodge to 1 dwelling unit and retention of Dutch barn as covered parking area; Conversion of stables to holiday let; Rebuilding of twin kiln oast to form a dwelling with retention of cart lodge as garage and associated landscaping (PROW) (LB)

13/01258/FUL **Blackhurst Park Halls Hole Road, Park**
- Conversion of two cottages into a single dwelling (LB) (CA)

13/01246/FUL **Holden Coach House Holden Road, Southborough Town Council**
- New detached dwelling as replacement of existing coach house which is converted to ancillary accommodation and garaging (CA) (LB)

13/01356/HOUSE **Grove House Holden Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Addition of a stained wood open porch with clay tiled roof (CA) (LB) (PROW)

13/01340/HOUSE **Oaken Leaves Southfields, Speldhurst**
- Single and two storey extensions and garage (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman

Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 01 June 2013



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Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/00473/VAR: 11-15 Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5DB Removal of condition 2 in respect of planning permission CA/98/1099 in relation to opening hours. **Applicant: MRH Limited** Reason: Conservation area, **CA/13/00745/FUL: Romany View, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LP** Residential chalet. **Applicant: Miss Kelly Barton** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/13/00836/FUL: Woodgrove, Summer Lane, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NJ Demolish the existing conservatory and build a new conservatory. The proposed conservatory is extended along the back of the house. **Applicant: Mr S Patel** Reason: Conservation area. **CA/13/00855/FUL: 1 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JD** Alterations to existing dwelling including the replacement of existing timber windows with white upvc sash windows, construction of a bay window to front, application of external render and removal of front porch.

Applicant: Mr Murray Reason: Conservation area, **CA/13/00900/FUL: 160 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5AD** Change of use of the existing first floor from residential to a restaurant (Use Class A3). **Applicant: Nicogen Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/00913/FUL: 8 Suffolk Street, Whitstable, CT5 4HA Single-storey rear extensions and new French doors to lounge. **Applicant: Ms Josephine Reckitt** Reason: Conservation area,

CA/13/00923/FUL: 4 Longmarket, Canterbury, CT1 2JS Existing timber shopfront to be primed and painted dark grey on the framework and a mushroom colour on the fascia. New water proof ply panel with tiles applied to stall riser. **Applicant: Lakeland Ltd** Reason: Conservation area. **CA/13/00924/ADV: 4 Longmarket, Canterbury, CT1 2JS** New signage to existing fascia to be sign written in brand colour blue and yolk yellow. Two new projecting signs fixed to existing brackets in existing positions. **Applicant: Lakeland Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/00940/FUL: Glenwood, Shaftesbury Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DS Erection of first floor extension over existing garage. **Applicant: Mr Phillips** Reason: Conservation area, **CA/13/00948/FUL: 15 Wave Crest, Whitstable, CT5 1EH** Alterations to window/door openings and internal alterations. **Applicant: Miss Hogarth** Reason: Conservation area,

CA/13/00951/FUL: 43 Crown Gardens, Canterbury, CT2 8LQ Single-storey extension at side of dwelling and erection of two cycle storage buildings adjacent to garage. **Applicant: Mr S Thorley** Reason: Conservation area, **CA/13/00952/FUL: Land off Coopers Lane, Simmonds Road, Wincheap, Canterbury** Proposed storage units (3 No.) **Applicant: Selby and Selby Canterbury Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/00953/LB: The Swan Inn, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0BD Internal alterations involving en-suite shower room, boiler room and lobby. **Applicant: Augustus Moon LLP** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/13/00962/FUL: 63-64 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BB Change of Use from D1 to A3 Class with proposed advertisements and exterior decoration to a listed building. **Applicant: Tamago** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/13/00964/LB: 63-64 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BB Change of Use from D1 to A3 Class with proposed advertisements and exterior decoration to a listed building. **Applicant: Tamago** Reason: Work to a listed building. **CA/13/00968/FUL: Holmleigh, Chitty Lane, Chislehurst, CT3 4DZ** Conversion and extension to an ancillary building to form a one bedroom dwelling (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr R Jones** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/13/00975/FUL: Lloyds TSB, 14-16 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BH 1 x set of non-illuminated built-up letters mounted to shallow folded panel; 1 x non-illuminated projecting sign panel installed to existing externally illuminated bracket; 1 x illuminated ATM header; 3 x illuminated heritage window light strips; 1 x non-illuminated nameplate and 1 x reverse applied vinyl sign. **Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group** Reason: Conservation area,

CA/13/00978/FUL: Knaves Ash House, Church Road, Hoath, CT3 4JT Two-storey side extension to facilitate improvements to kitchen. **Applicant: Mr B Chapman** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 24 June 2013**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 31 May 2013

Whatever
job you
are
looking
for we
will help
you
find it

- Upload your CV and let recruiters find you
- Easy online Job search and application tools
- Register to receive the latest jobs delivered to your inbox

PLANNING

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351 IN THE PARISH OF LOWER HARDRES PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 (ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 6th December 2012, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Bridleway CB351 has been extended for a further 6 months.

The path is closed between the junction with Public Footpath CB307 and Public Bridleway CB352 (NGR TR 162 537) and Bridge Road, a distance of approximately 290 metres.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams
Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH SD200 (PART) EYNSFORD)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2007

ON 21ST MAY 2013 THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CONFIRMED THE ABOVE ORDER WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the section of Public Footpath SD200 which commences at GR 5508 6388 and runs in a east-south-easterly direction for 224 metres to GR 5528 6381 (as shown between the points A and B on the Order Plan) and adding a Public Footpath with a width of 2 metres commencing from GR 5508 6388 and running in a east-south-easterly direction for 218 metres to GR 5528 6381.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

This Order became operative as from 21st May 2013 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 2nd June 2013 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX
Dated: 2nd June 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way
and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 17 JUNE 2013

SW/13/0407:

Replacement of existing timber framed windows with UPVC windows to match existing design and openings - Flat 36, Gange Mews, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0543:

SW/13/0544:

Change of use of part of the building to increase the residential accommodation to three bedrooms and provide a single holiday cottage - Tonge Mill, Church Road, Tonge, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0546:

Single storey rear extension - 21 Priory Row, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0570:

3 bay carriage house and store covering 69.44m2. Replaces 4 outbuildings covering 105m2 that were demolished in February 2013 (Planning Ref. SW/12/1554) - Little Lodge, Church Lane, DODDINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0574:

Application for new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission SW/10/0653 in order to extend the time limit for implementation - 1-3 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0576 &

SW/13/0577:

Extension to time limit of approved SW/10/0368 and SW/10/0416 for single storey extensions, internal alterations, demolition of single storey kitchen, toilets and flat roof wall - Preston School Room, Preston Lane, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0583:

Erection of Solar PV panels on approximately 4.9 ha of land for a period of 25 years, and the erection of ancillary brick equipment/storage buildings - Land on the South East side of Yaugher Lane, HARTLIP; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0585:

Listed Building Consent for new Signage - Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 44-45 Court Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0587:

Advertisement Consent for various non-illuminated signage - Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 44-45 Court Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0595:

Erection of new cherry and seasonal coverings over existing and proposed new cherry orchards - Owens Court Farm, SELLING; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/13/0599:

Outline application for new 50 bedroom care home with ancillary accommodation over 3 floors (the top floor within the roof) and with a basement kitchen and staff rooms - Little Oyster Residential Home, Seaside Avenue, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0604:

Ground floor conservatory to the rear south east elevation - 33 South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0608:

Listed Building Consent for installation of a conservatory to the rear - 85 High Street, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Local job
search
Local job
found

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0365/S - AYSGARTH, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AU - Removal of pitched roofs to facilitate installation of lantern-style roof light and alterations to fenestration. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0366/S - AYSGARTH, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AU - Listed building consent for the removal of pitched roofs to facilitate installation of lantern-style roof light, alterations to fenestration, removal of section of external wall and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0556/S - 23, COLLEGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6YH - Erection of a two storey side extension as shown on drawing no.s CR/101, CR/102 and CR/103 B date stamped 28 March 2013. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0575/S - THE GEORGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EJ - Development and conversion of outbuildings to create one new family dwelling, amendment to MA/11/1538. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0679/S - LITTLE CHEVENEY OAST, LITTLE CHEVENEY FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Listed Building Consent for removal of internal partition wall and new flooring. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0697/N - 2, BROGDEN FARM COTTAGES, OLD MILL ROAD, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RT - An application for listed building consent for the installation of secondary glazing to 10No. windows and 1No. French window. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0735/N - BARTY HOUSE NURSING HOME, ROUNDWELL, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HN - Proposed dementia wing to provide 18 residents rooms with associated facilities and car parking. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0736/N - BARTY HOUSE NURSING HOME, ROUNDWELL, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HN - Listed building consent for a proposed dementia wing to provide 18 residents rooms with associated facilities and car parking. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0739/N - 18, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1HT - Listed building consent is sought for the installation of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign and 1no non-illuminated hanging sign. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0741/S - SELBY SHAW, HEATH ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JE - Erection of detached garage with room above. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0756/N - CHERRY TREES, THE STREET, STOCKBURY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7UD - Erection of two storey extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0764/S - WIERTON CHASE, BACK LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JR - Erection of a replacement single storey extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0765/S - GRAVITTS FARM, PEENS LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BY - Listed building consent for the retention of existing timber double glazed windows, alterations to internal and external doors and retention of en-suite wc in bedroom 2. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0767/N - CHERRY TREES, THE STREET, STOCKBURY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7UD - An application for listed building consent for the erection of two storey extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0768/S - GRAVITTS FARM, PEENS LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BY - Listed building consent for the retention of Upvc double glazed window to bathroom on second floor (west elevation) and the window to attic bedrooms 5 and 6. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0769/S - 35, UPPER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8BP - Retrospective Listed Building Consent for conversion of existing cellar to habitable room. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0772/N - APCOA PARKING KING STREET MULTI STOREY, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1EN - Demolition of existing multi storey car park, ground floor shop unit and public toilets and provision of surface level car park with 64 spaces, spaces for bikes and additional landscaping (resubmission of MA/13/0060). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0797/S - LOOSE COURT FARM, OLD DRIVE, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9SE - Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission MA/10/0514 [Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission in order to extend the time limit for implementing planning permission MA/05/0670 (Erection of a double garage and carport with workshop and revised parking and manoeuvring)]. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0811/S - THE OLD CHAPEL, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AP - Erection of two single storey rear extensions and a front porch. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **16th June 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 2nd June 2013.



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00370	Erection of two detached buildings incorporating 12 flats, offices and communal living area, associated car parking and landscaping (existing dwelling to be demolished) St Giles Cottage & Access, Old Folkestone Road, Aycliffe, Dover, CT17 9HB MAR
DOV/13/00388	Erection of a detached dwelling to be used in conjunction with existing residential institution St Michaels, 166 London Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, CT16 3DE ARW
DOV/13/00382	Erection of a shed 19 Loop Street, Sandwich, CT13 9HE CON
DOV/13/00187	Erection of a pitched roof on existing garage with associated alterations 65 Liverpool Road, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7NN SLB
DOV/13/00371	Change of use to cafe (use class A3) and erection of an awning 10 Victoria Road, Deal, CT14 7AP CON

Reason for Advert Codes:-

SLB - To affect setting of a Listed Building **ARW** - Affects a Public Right of Way
CON - In a Conservation Area
MAR - Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way
Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

ARLINGTON, ASHFORD (RESTRICTIONS ON CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential cable maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Arlington, Ashford, on or after 3 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 3 June 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed. The Footpath between Arlington and Hillbrow Lane will be closed, as signposted on site.

The alternative route is via footpaths on Arlington and Hillbrow Lane, as signed.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, on or after 9 June 2013, as shown below.

Bridge Street, Wye will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing, from Sunday 9 June 2013 at 01:55 hours through until Monday 10 June at 04:40 hours.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 5 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013
Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce new speed limits as per the following Schedule:
40mph

Ashford Road, Bethersden	From its junction with Gascoigne Road to a point 190 metres south of its junction with Bull Lane
Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with The Martins to its junction with Gascoigne Road

50mph

Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 535 metres north-east of its junction with Little Robbhurst to a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with The Martins
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A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 03/06/2013, together with the Statement of Reasons for making the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 4 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013
Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a new 50mph speed limit as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, Great Chart with Singleton	From a point 92 metres south-west of its junction with Goldwell Lane to its junction with Bethersden Road
Ashford Road, Bethersden	From its junction with Bethersden Road to a point 300 metres east of its junction with Kiln Lane

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 03/06/2013, together with the Statement of Reasons for making the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BROAD OAK LEVEL CROSSING, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Oak Level Crossing, Sturry, on or after 9 June 2013, as shown below.

Broad Oak Road, Sturry will be closed at Broad Oak Level Crossing, from Sunday 9 June at 01:00 hours through until Monday 10 June at 04:00 hours.

The alternative route is via Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road, A28 Mill Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Sweenchgate and Shalloak Road.

ORCHARD STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to cut a new valve into a water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Orchard Street, Canterbury, on or after 17 June 2013, for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed as shown below.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Dunstan's Street.

The alternative route is via A290 St Dunstan's Street, London Road, St Dunstan's Terrace and Orchard Street.

ST LAWRENCE CLOSE & COWDREY PLACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Lawrence Close & Cowdrey Place, Canterbury, on or after 17 June 2013, as shown below.

ST LAWRENCE CLOSE will be closed for its entire length, planned to commence Monday 17 June 2013 for up to 1 week.

COWDREY PLACE, CANTERBURY will be closed for its entire length, planned to commence Monday 24 June 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

There are no alternative routes, as both roads are cul-de-sacs. Every effort will be made to maintain access when it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be times when the nature of works prevents this, and delays should be expected.

Waiting will be prohibited when the relevant signs and No Waiting cones are placed on site, which has the effect of suspending any existing parking bays in both roads.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

PRIORY ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Priory Road Dartford, on or after 9th June and 27th October 2013 each for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Victoria Road and the Railway Bridge.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate Road and Priory Road.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BACK STREET, LEEDS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace an electricity pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Street, Leeds on or after 7 June 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Forge Lane and Avery Lane.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Upper Street, Horseshoes Lane, Back Street.

OAKWOOD ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oakwood Road, Maidstone, on or after 8 June 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 56.

The alternative route is via Bower Mount Road, A26 Tonbridge Road.

OTHAM STREET, OTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a retaining wall, concrete post, steel rails, carriageway and clear vegetation Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Otham Street, Otham, on or after 3 June 2013 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Gable Cottages.

The alternative route is via Simmonds Lane, Honey Lane, Avery Lane, Back Street, Caring Road, Green Hill.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

HONEYPOT LANE, KEMSING, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of enabling safe access/loading of vehicles required to replace the Kemsing Station footbridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Honeypot Lane, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th July 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Noahs Ark and Watery Lane. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Watery Lane, Heaverham Road, Noahs Ark.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPWAY (SURFACE DRESSING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JUNE 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing dressing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various rural roads in the Shepway District, on or after 18 June 2013, as follows.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

Roads will be closed between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day and otherwise re-opened.

B2080 RHEE WALL ROAD & STATION ROAD closed between Ashford Road and Station Road

18 & 19 June 2013

Alternative Route via Rhee Wall, A2070 Ashford Road, Marsh Road, The Street, Warehome Road, Kenardington Road, Warehome Road, Kenardington Road, Brook Street, Woodchurch Road, Appledore Road, Reading Street, Tenterden Road, The Street and Station Road

BOWDELL LANE, BRENZETT closed from Rhee Wall Road to approximately 50 metres north of level crossing

19 June 2013

B2080 Rhee Wall Road, King Street and Brack Lane KENNARDS LANE, SNARGATE closed between Brack Lane and King Street

19 June 2013

Alternative route via Brack Lane, Beckett Road, Harvey Road and King Street

BRACK LANE, SNARGATE closed between Beckett Road and Kennards Lane

19 June 2013

Alternative route via Beckett Road, Harvey Road, King Street and Kennards Lane

HARVEY ROAD, BROOKLAND closed between A259 Rye Road and Beckett Road

19 & 20 June 2013

Alternative route via A259 Rye Road and Beckett Road

BOARMAN'S LANE, BROOKLAND closed between Tickners Lane and Royal Oak Lane

20 June 2013

Alternative route via Royal Oak Lane, High Street, A259 Brookland Bypass, Straight Lane, Rhee Wall and Tillery Lane

BEGGARSBUSH LANE, OLD ROMNEY closed between Eighteen Acre Lane and Washington Lane

20 June 2013

Alternative route via A259 Rhee Wall, Tillery Lane, Barnhouse Lane, Ashantee Lane, road from Hook Wall to Midley Wall, Coldharbour Lane and Beggarsbush Lane

DENGEMARSH ROAD, LYDD closed from Tournay Road to Dengemarsh Farm

20 June 2013

There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible, but there will be some times when the nature of works prevents this, and some delays should be expected

CHURCH ROAD, BURMARSH closed between Tame Lane and Burmarsh Road

20 June 2013

Alternative route via Church Road, Gigger's Green Road, Lower Wall Road, Donkey Street and Thordike Road

LOWER WALL ROAD, BURMARSH closed between Gigger's Green Road and Tame Lane

20 & 21 June 2013

Alternative route via Gigger's Green Road, Eastbridge Road, High Street, Burmarsh Road , Donkey Street and Lower Wall Road

B2067 ALDINGTON ROAD, LYMPNE closed from Upper Park Farm to 200 metres west of the junction with Otterpool Lane

21 June 2013

Alternative route via B2067 Otterpool Lane, A20 Barrow Hill, Main Road, Ashford Road, Hythe Road, Station Road, Evegate Mill Lane, Calleywell Lane and Roman Road

B2067 OTTERPOOL LANE, LYMPNE closed between A20 Ashford Road to Aldington Road

21 & 22 June 2013

Alternative route via A20 Ashford Road, Stone Street and B2067 Aldington Road

HARRINGE LANE, SELLINDGE closed between A20 Main Road and Aldington Road

22 June 2013

Alternative route via A20 Main Road, Barrow Hill, Ashford Road, Stone Street and B2067 Aldington Road

BRABOURNE LANE, STOWTING & CANTERBURY ROAD, BRABOURNE closed between Stowting Hill and Scots Lane

22 June 2013

Alternative route via Stowting Hill, Stowting Court Road, Scots Lane

LOUGHBOROUGH LANE, LYMINGE closed between Brady Road and Broad Street

22 & 23 June 2013

Alternative route via Brady Road, Canterbury Road, Station Road, Broad Street and Loughborough Lane

BRADY ROAD, LYMINGE closed between Woodland Road and Loughborough Lane

23 June 2013

Alternative route via Brady Road, Canterbury Road, Station Road, Broad Street and Loughborough Lane

BOYKE LANE, ELHAM closed between Canterbury Road and White Horse Lane

23 June 2013

Alternative route via Canterbury Road, Longage Hill and White Horse Lane

EXTED HILL, ELHAM closed between Park Lane and Clavertye

23 and 24 June 2013

Alternative route via Magpie Lane, White Horse Lane, Longage Hill, Canterbury Road, New Road, High Street and Park Lane

FISHERS LANE, STELLING MINNIS closed between Fryarne Park and Fir Tree Hill

24 June 2013

Alternative route via Fryarne Park, Gildridge Hill, Wildage & Madams Bottom and Fir Tree Hill

VERSHALL LANE, ELHAM closed between Bunkers Hill and Holly Hill

24 June 2013

Alternative route via Bunkers Hill and the un-named road to North Elham Hill

HOLLY HILL, ELHAM closed for its entire length

24 June 2013

Alternative route via North Elham Hill and the un-named road between North Elham Hill and Bunkers Hill

UN-NAMED ROAD between NORTH ELHAM HILL & BUNKERS HILL closed between Bunkers Hill and North Elham Hill

24 June 2013

Alternative route via road from Bunkers Hill to Canterbury Road and North Elham Hill

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways & Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

WICK LANE, ELHAM closed between Standard Hill Top to Oak Hill

24 June 2013

Alternative route via Standard Hill Top, Lickpot Hill and Oak Hill

TAN BARN ROAD, LYMINGE closed between Mackie Lane and Acrise Park Road

24 June 2013

Alternative route via Mackie Lane, Teddars Leas Road, Paddlesworth Court, Winterage Lane and Acrise Park Road

GIBRALTAR LANE, HAWKINGE closed between Elvington Lane and Crete Road West

24 June 2013

Alternative route via Elvington Lane, Aerodrome Road, A260 Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road and Crete Road West

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. For any that are postponed, revised dates will be notified locally and signposted on site.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 4 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 4 June 2013 to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Dawes Road will be closed between the junctions with Thread Lane / Stoney Road and Holly Hill Road.

The alternative route is via Dawes Road, Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Courtenay Road and Dawes Road.

STOCKERS HILL, RODMERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stockers Hill, Rodmersham, on or after 3 June 2013, for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Highsted Valley, Cheney Hill and Bottles Lane.

VICARAGE LANE, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvements to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vicarage Lane, Faversham, on or after 17 June 2013, as shown below.

Vicarage Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the properties Flint Cottage and Round Oast Cottage, to the north of the M2, with local access from either direction up to the point of closure, but no through access.

Works are planned to commence from 17 June 2013 to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Water Lane, A2 London Road and Brogdale Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

GEORGE HILL ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to underground phone cables, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of George Hill Road, Broadstairs, on or after 17 June 2013, as shown below.

George Hill Road will be closed between the junctions with Whiteness Road and Convent Road (please note that this is not the B2052 section of George Hill Road).

Works are planned to commence from 17 June 2013 to 1 night, between 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours.

The alternative route is via B2052 Whiteness Road, Kingsgate Bay Road and Convent Road.

MANSTON AIRSHOW (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and to reduce traffic congestion during the Manston Airshow, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic nearby, on 22 June 2013, between 07:30 hours and 19:00 hours, as shown below.

B2050 Manston Road will be closed to through traffic (except buses) between the junctions with Alland Grange Lane and Manston Court Road.

Access for residents of Esmonde Drive will remain from Alland Grange Lane direction.

The alternative route is via B2190 Spitfire Way, Minster Road, The Street, Acot Hill, and B2050 Manston Road.

NASH ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Nash Road, Margate, on or after 3 June 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

Nash Road will be closed between the junctions with Star Lane and Haine Road.

The alternative route is via Star Lane, Star Lane Link and A256 Haine Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (SURFACE DRESSING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JUNE 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing dressing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Thanet area, on or after 8 June 2013, as shown below.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as follows.

Roads will be closed between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day, and otherwise re-opened.

PLUMSTONE ROAD, ACOL / MONKTON closed for its entire length (junctions with Seamark Road and Minster Road)

8 June 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via Minster Road, A299 Thanet Way and Seamark Road

SHOTTENDANE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON / MARGATE closed for its entire length (junctions with B2050 Manston Road and Manston Road)

8 June 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via B2050 Park Lane, A28 Canterbury Road, George V Avenue and Hartsdown Road

PRESTON ROAD, MANSTON closed for its entire length (junctions with Manston Court Road and Manston Road)

9 June 2013 for up to 2 days

31 July 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via Manston Court Road and Manston Road

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. For any that are postponed, revised dates will be notified locally and signposted on site.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 2nd June 2013

For further information, please contact
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Sport

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Countdown begins for Super League game

SUPER League action returns to Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium next weekend.

On Saturday, June 8, London Broncos take on Warrington Wolves. It is the second year running the Broncos have used Gillingham's stadium as a venue for a 'home' fixture. Last May they lost 14-12 to Hull FC.

Gates open at 11am and the action gets under way with an under-19 game at 12.30pm. There will be on-pitch entertainment throughout the day before the main event starts at 3pm.

Tickets are priced at £15 for adults, £10 for senior citizens and £1 for juniors (under 19). To book, visit www.gillinghamfootballclub.com or phone the club's ticket office on 01634 300000.

SPEEDWAY

Encouraging weekend sees Kings bag a point

THE Kent Kings lost out by six points to a powerful Mildenhall Fen Tigers side at Central Park in the National Trophy on Bank Holiday Monday.

At the sun-soaked track in Sittingbourne the Fen Tigers returned to Suffolk with a 48-42 win.

The visitors took a 5-1 lead in the first heat and they didn't look back from there, with the Kings only managing to level the scores once throughout the meeting, to 6-6 in the second heat.

There was also an encouraging display in the National League on Sunday as the Kings picked up a point at the Buxton Hitmen in a 47-42 loss.

MOTORSPORT

Frustrating outing for Camier at Donington

ASHFORD rider Leon Camier endured a frustrating weekend at Donington Park in the latest round of the World Superbike Championship.

The FIXI Crescent Suzuki rider crashed twice in the first race, the second of which saw an end to his challenge, and in the second race he recovered from another crash to finish 13th.

"I had a bad start and was a bit too aggressive in the first race, even though I felt OK on the bike," he said. "I was trying to get past Canepa, but in the slower corners I was struggling a bit to get the bike pulled up. I knew this, but I was desperate to get past him because I could see the front group going away."

CRICKET

Former Kent bowler given France chance

FORMER Kent bowler Simon Cook is set to take up the reins as coach of the French national cricket team this summer.

The 36-year-old retired at the end of last season after seven years with the county, having previously played for Middlesex, and now is set for a 30-day coaching role with France.

It will see Cook, who is now based in Sweden, looking after their side for the ICC Europe Division 1 t20 Championship in Sussex from July 8-14.

He also has a verbal agreement for a two-year deal to become head coach of Hong Kong Cricket Club following that.

MOTORSPORT



START: NASCAR is huge in America, but a new European series has begun in France that Euro-Racecar NASCAR's Jerome Galpin, right, believes can thrive

Euro NASCAR series backed to be a hit as it prepares for Brands visit

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE deafening roar of V8 monsters, the smell of a barbecue on the go and cheerleaders trackside would almost make you think you were in the States.

But next weekend, on Sunday, June 9, all that and more is coming to Brands Hatch when it pays homage to the a sport entrenched in American society – NASCAR.

The American Speedfest is coming to town, bringing with it a round of the Euro-Racecar NASCAR series, a French-inspired take on the original series that is aiming to create a niche of its own in the motorsport market around Europe.

It is the second time that it has visited Brands Hatch, having supported the German DTM series last May. Since then it has been taken under the wing of NASCAR's hierarchy in America and backed to enthrall a new generation of motorsports fans this side of the pond.

The idea that Brands could be the springboard for more races based in England is an exciting one for Jerome Galpin, general manager of Euro-Racecar NASCAR.

"That's something to consider, there is some-

AMERICAN ENIGMA

NASCAR'S venture is a not too dissimilar story to those that have trodden these waters before.

It attempted to make headway back in the 1990s but failed, as did the American-backed CART World Series, a leg of which was held at Brands Hatch in 2003 for the London Champ Car Trophy.

NASCAR has proved an enigma for Brits. Scot Dario Franchitti, the cousin of Formula One ace Paul Di Resta, is currently the only Brit in the series.

Sevenoaks's very own Mike Conway has been a regular on the IndyCar circuit until he pulled out last year.

thing very special in England, there is a great passion for motorsport," he said. "It's a country that can welcome more than one event.

"At the moment Brands Hatch is perfect. In the future our goal is to expand our calendar. Our goal is to create a channel and to get a European driver in the NASCAR series.

"Each series has its own way, we have our

way, and Formula One has its own cultures. It's not really challenging, there is room for everyone. We are not copying or challenging anyone's game plans.

"Let's see what happens in 60 years, we have some time in front of us. We are evolving in the NASCAR world. There are no politics, and money is not a concern – it's all about passion. Money comes second."

With the series founded in France, naturally the majority of drivers are French, but it has opened up in the last few years to Spanish, Italian, Australian and Indian drivers. There is just one Brit involved – Stuart Gough.

Jonathan Palmer, chief executive of Motorsport Vision, which owns Brands Hatch, feels there is room for the event to grow.

He said: "It's a long way away, and not intended to challenge Formula One. It's an event that could be as big as the British Touring Car Championship, though.

"What's great is the NASCAR senior officials have publicly supported this event and are proud for it to be coming to Brands Hatch. The concept of the car is interesting, it's not expensive, and it's front engine."

■ **For more information about the event, visit www.speedfest.co.uk.**

BOXING

DeGale set for title showdown against Bozic at Glow arena



EXCITED: James DeGale is glad to fight in Kent

JAMES DeGale is heading back to Glow to defend his WBC Silver super-middleweight title against Croatian Stjepan Bozic.

The Olympic gold-medallist was due to fight Alexander Brand at the Bluewater complex in March, but it was called off and he will now take on the Slovenian-born Croatian at the same venue on Saturday, June 8.

The announcement comes just 12 days after he demolished Sebastian Demers on his North American debut.

"I'm excited to be boxing at Glow again. It was a tremendous atmosphere for my last fight and it's a great venue to headline at," DeGale said.

"This year is going to be a big year for me. I'm looking to be the first-ever British Olympic gold-medallist who goes on and wins a professional world title and I just want to show

my fans and especially the British fight fans what I'm made of."

Bozic has shared the ring against former middle and super-middleweight world champion Arthur Abraham, losing the contest due to a badly-injured left hand from hitting Abraham's right elbow in the second-round.

He has also fought for the WBA World super-middleweight title against Dimitri Sartison only to be stopped on the advice of the ring doctor for a badly-swollen left eye.

He is a former WBA Inter-Continental champion and boasts 26 wins with 17 knockouts and has won his last two contests by way of knockout.

"I'm not overlooking anyone – whoever gets put in front of me I'm training for like it was a world-title fight," said DeGale.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

'Traditionalist' Scally not ruling out terrace return

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

'GERMAN-STYLE' safe-standing areas have not been ruled out by chairman Paul Scally as being a part of Gillingham's new stadium.

The 'rail seats' implemented to great success in Germany have been highlighted once again this season through the likes of Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich's success in Europe.

And there are more clubs in the top two tiers of English football than ever backing a change in the law for safe-standing areas to be allowed, as currently clubs in the Premier League and the Championship have to be all-seater.

Traditional terraces were outlawed in the 1990s but are now back on the radar, with the Football Supporters Federation backing the Safe Standing Roadshow, an initiative to increase awareness of the rail seats, pictured right, which tip up flush with a waist-height rail to form safe terraces. It is a concept to which Scally would not be adverse when the Gills move to a new home in the near future.

"I'm a traditionalist. I like standing. I would personally have standing," he said. "But we have spent millions getting our stadia converted – to go back to standing is a backward step.

"I'm not sure it's what the public want. It would be useful to see what the people want, though.

"I saw the one in Schalke's stadium a few years ago – it's very impressive and well constructed. I wouldn't create standing areas in our current stadium, but when we build our new stadium we would consider what the public want and try to incorporate it."

A move away from Priestfield has been on the cards for the last few years, with Scally having identified the Mill Hill site just a few miles from their current home as the place for their new stadium.

He admits that he is yet to be convinced there is a demand for it, but is willing to listen to what fans have to say on the subject.

"We are a customer-led business, so we listen to the customers and see what they want," he said. "We are pushing quite hard with the new stadium. To build a new Brian Moore Stand would cost £2.5 million and I don't want to do that if we are going to knock it down again when we move."



SHOULD THE GILLS LOOK AT GETTING RAIL SEATS?

THE rail seating, as shown above in German side Hannover's stadium, could be a hit on British shores... and indeed at Gillingham.

That's the view of Neil Klee, chairman of the Gills Independent Supporters Club, who would like to see the club take up the idea.

"I think there is a very good case for them to be installed, so long as it's done in the manner that they have in Germany," he said.

"It's an ongoing problem anyway, particularly at the ends of the grounds where people tend to stand, and older people who

are not able to, get stuck.

"No one wants another Hillsborough to happen, but this is totally different. It's planned, designed and thought out. I would have thought it's got to be worth a go.

"With a new ground I hope they are planning for enough people. Maybe we don't get big crowds at the moment, but there's no parking."

■ What do you think?

Vote on our website or email us at: sports@kosmedia.co.uk

A matter closer to hand is preparing the Gills for life in League One following their title-winning efforts last season.

This week Scally has been discussing the budget for the year ahead with Gills boss Martin Allen out in Dubai. As usual the club has been linked with a number of players, but there is no news yet of anyone coming or going.

"Everything has to fit into our budget," he said. "Our aspirations are very high and our budget is nowhere near our aspiration. We will make the best of what we have."

One player whose future is still to be resolved is Jack Payne. The midfielder was on loan in the Championship with Peterborough United until the end of the season and the Posh have got an option to sign him for a pre-agreed fee. However, Scally is keen for the 21-year-old to stay and has not yet heard from anyone at the Posh.

"Right now we haven't had any transfer business," he said. "We are quite happy for Jack Payne to stay and Martin is keen for him to stay. We are not trying to sell him. We are happy for him to stay and be part of the squad."

CRICKET

Jones asks for patience after poor start in the County Championship

KENT wicketkeeper Geraint Jones has urged supporters to stick by the team after their poor start in the County Championship.

Kent are sitting at the wrong end of the LV=County Championship Division Two table after six games. But the 36-year-old, who is deputising as captain while James Tredwell is with England in the ICC Trophy, which starts this week, is confident they can turn it around by utilising the form from their Yorkshire Bank 40 that sees them second in Group A.

"What I would say to fans is don't write us off," he said. "Fans deserve to be disappointed when we are bowled out for 60-odd against Worcestershire – that's not right. We weren't happy with that at all. There's a long time left in the season and we need their support.

"I think we are all aware we are at the wrong end of the table. So it's important we are aware of the need to win games against teams that are around us. It is important we take the opportunities that we get."

Without wishing to make excuses, Jones pointed to bad conditions that have hampered performances.

"We have had a couple of bad results, but there is a heck of a long way to go in the season," he said. "Teams have got off to a poor start and ended up getting promoted. We don't see ourselves as being dead and buried.

"We need to start on a roll. We have started well in the YB40, but we need to start in the four-day game, too. We have come across a couple of good bowlers who have made the most of the conditions, and outbowled us and won the game.

"We are not looking for excuses, but we have played on a couple of difficult wickets. It just takes the guys to do something and we can gain a bit of confidence."



Picture: ADY KERRY

CONFIDENCE: Kent want to harness YB40 form

FOOTBALL

Kuwaitis finally complete takeover at Ebbsfleet



DEAL: Peter Varney has led takeover

EBBSFLEET United's takeover by a Kuwaiti investment group has been officially confirmed.

The relegated Blue Square Premier club had been in talks with investment group KEH Sports Ltd (KSL) for the past three weeks and has now concluded the buyout deal.

The man fronting their takeover is former Charlton Athletic chairman Peter Varney, who wrapped up the deal with the club's majority and minority shareholders on Thursday.

A press conference has been called for Monday morning, when it is expected that former Dover Athletic coach and Charlton legend Steve Brown will be unveiled as the new

manager following Liam Daish's decision to leave after eight years.

The new ownership sees an end to the five-year rule under web-based membership group MyFootballClub.co.uk and paves the way for an exciting future under KSL, with the money-man behind the investors planning a transfer budget of £100,000 and a playing budget of £8,000 a week.

The deal also means a winding-up order issued against the club by Fleet Leisure Ltd for unpaid bills has been withdrawn.

A total of 98.24 per cent of the club's shareholders voted in favour of the takeover.

NON-LEAGUE TALK

King returns as Collin decides

STUART King has re-signed for **Folkestone Invicta** after being released by Maidstone United.

The 25-year-old forward has signed a two-year deal at Cheriton Road after a seven-month stay at the Gallagher Stadium, where he signed from Folkestone in November for £5,000.

He scored 11 goals in 25 games. His move comes after **Maidstone** snapped up sought-after forward Frannie Collin, who joined after seeing out his contract at **Tonbridge Angels**. The 26-year-old forward had been a target for Dover Athletic before making the move.

Another forward to leave the Stones is Ade Olorunda, who has quit the side

for work and tax reasons. The former Tonbridge Angels striker scored 21 goals last season.

Margate have announced the double signing of midfielders Scot Kinch and George Craddock. Kinch has joined the Ryman Premier side having been released by Blue Square South champions Welling United earlier this month. He made 33 appearances for them last season. Craddock spent the end of last season on work-experience terms at Welling from Northampton Town.

Herne Bay have signed Lordswood defender Joe Kane. He made 50 appearances and scored nine goals in the Kent League last year.

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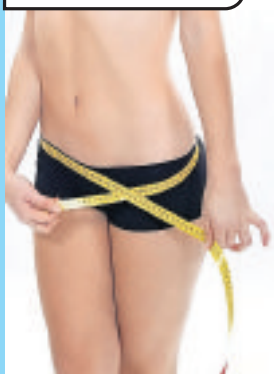
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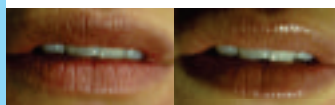
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